House rallies behind Desierto, junks impeach rap

STORY BELOW, COLUMN 1

SINO KAYA ANG NAGPADALA NITO?
IKAW!

Love stories and more

LONDON—It's the most romantic day of the year, but for many people the cards they receive on Feb. 14 are not from a Valentine, but from themselves. One in nine love

LOVE/A15

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Int'l media body urges RP to probe Arlyn case

WHILE Philippine authorities maintain a skeptical stance over the abduction of television journalist Arlyn de la Cruz, a Paris-based media watchdog on Tuesday urged President Macapagal-Arroyo to investigate her disappearance.

De la Cruz, who works for the Iglesia ni Cristo cable channel Net 25, has been missing since Jan. 19. She was re-

INT'L/A14

e-mail: feedback@inquirer.com.ph Thursday, February 14, 2002 ★ 72 pages / 7 sections / vol.17 / no. 68 P15 website: www.inq7.net

US agrees to hit only Abu Sayyaf in war games

By Christine Herrera, Carlito Pablo and Dona Pazzibugan

THE TERMS OF reference for the RP-US military training exercises in Mindanao were finally signed yesterday, its most distinct feature being that the United States agreed not to undertake actions that will escalate conflicts with armed groups negotiating peace with the Philippine government.

The signing of the TOR will finally pave the way for the deployment of US Special Forces in joint patrols with Filipino soldiers against the Abu Sayyaf bandits on Basilan Island.

"I have approved the terms of reference for Balikatan 02-1. The games or exercises can begin (tomorrow)," Vice President Teofisto Guingona Jr. said at a press conference.

The exercises will last for six months with the participation of 660 US personnel and 3,800 Filipino soldiers. These will be conducted in Basilan and Malagutay and Zamboanga areas. Related activities in Cebu support the exercise.

Guingona, the concurrent foreign secretary, said he "was able to get the agreement of the United States that the exercises shall not in any way contribute to any escalation of other conflicts in Mindanao."

He said the United States also agreed that the exercises "shall not adversely affect the progress of ongoing peace negotiations between the Philippine government and other parties, and shall not put at risk the friendly relations between the Philippines and its neighbors as well as with other states."

Guingona was referring to the peace talks with the communist-led National Democratic Front and the secessionist Moro Islamic Liberation Front.

The United States gave the assurance in the minutes of the teleconference between Guingona and James Kelly, US assistant secretary of state for East Asian and Pacific affairs, on Tuesday.

US/A14

'Callous display of arrogance'

By Juliet Javellana, Carlito Pablo and Martin Marfil

EVEN before the start of Balikatan, the government is set to raise a "minor complaint" regarding the personal behavior of American soldiers.

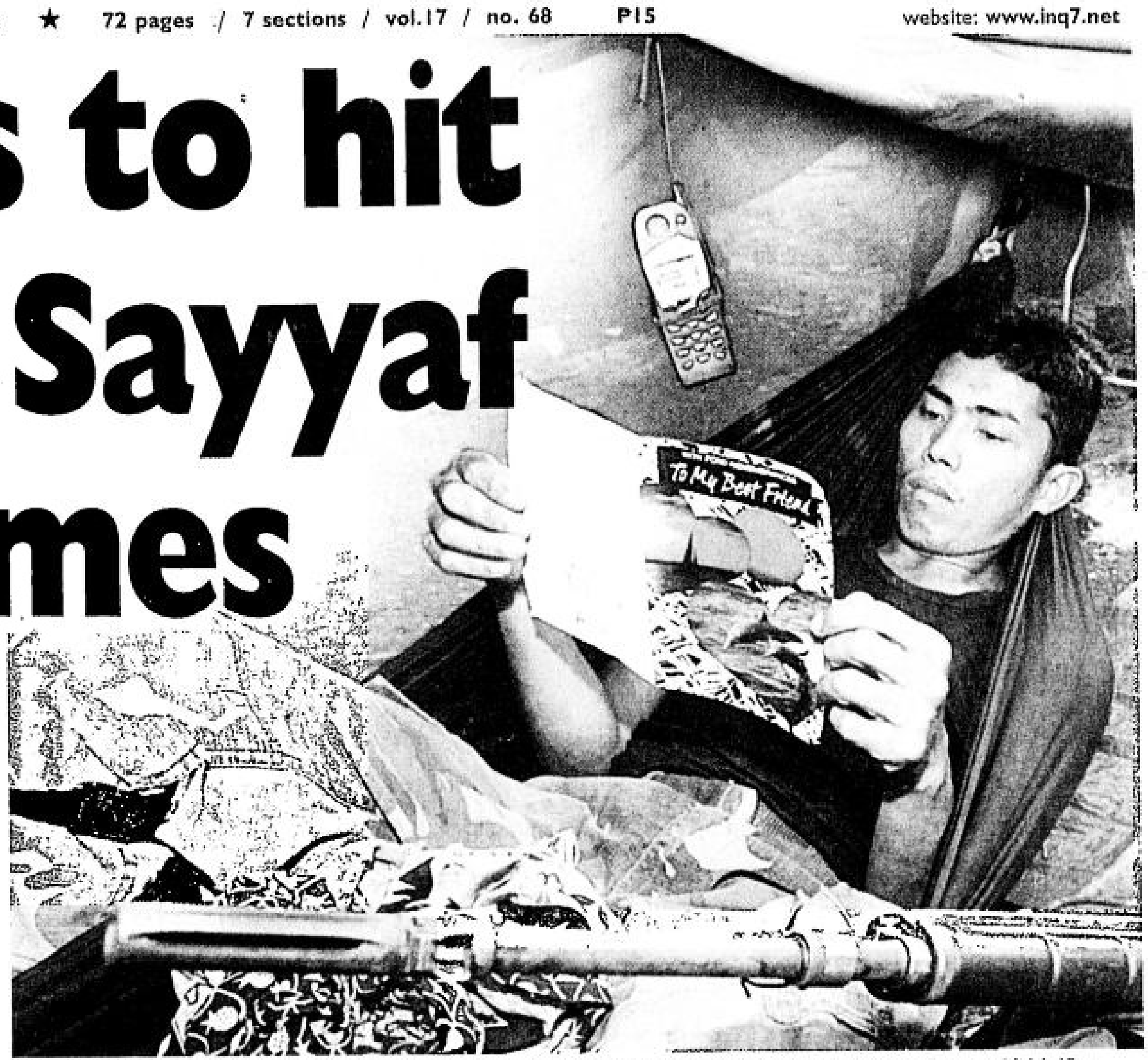
But the picture of American soldiers in civilian clothes carrying assault rifles while withdrawing from a bank in Zamboanga City on Tuesday was not "minor" but denounced in Congress as a "callous display of arrogance."

Sen. Rodolfo Biazon said it might be a minor, frivolous complaint "but the implications of this incident require the full attention not only of Congress but the Filipino people as well."

Even presidential spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao described the incident as "an unnecessary show of force" and said they should apologize. But he was quick to point out that it was his "personal opinion" and not the President's.

Lt. Gen. Roy Cimatu yesterday ordered the Filipino training director of

CALLOUS/A14



LOVE in a time of war in the far reaches of Camp Cabunbata, Isabela, Basilan, the soldier lies with his true love, an M-14 rifle.

VAL HANDUMON

Gov't soldiers kill 7 more Abus

ZAMBOANGA CITY—The military yesterday reported that Army soldiers killed seven more Abu Sayyaf bandits on Jolo island, while another Army unit in Sultan Kudarat clashed with Moro Islamic Liberation Front rebels who reportedly kidnapped a South Korean trader and his Filipino partner.

Capt. Noel Detoyato, a military spokesperson in Western Mindanao, said soldiers of the 4th Infantry Battalion and the 25th Special Force Company encountered an Abu Sayyaf group in Patikul, Sulu, about 9:35 a.m. on Wednesday, triggering a 20-minute firefight that left seven bandits dead.

Philippine Air Force planes and an attack helicopter bombed Abu Sayyaf positions in Patikul and Indanan on Tuesday, killing at least 10 bandits.

At least 27 bandits have been killed on Jolo island since Friday when the Abu Sayyaf ambushed and killed five soldiers, including a young lieutenant.

Three gunmen belonging to a Moro National Liberation Front faction loyal to detained rebel leader Nur Misuari were also killed late Tuesday in clashes with government troops on Sibago island, off the main island of Basilan.

Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes said Misuari's followers had entered into a tactical alliance with the Abu Sayyaf bandits since many of them were related to each other by blood.

While the main military force is engaging the Abu Sayyaf on Jolo island, other Army units are tracking down in Central Mindanao an MILF group that allegedly kidnapped South Korean Jae Keon-yoon and his Filipino partner, Carlos Belonio.

The military said Army soldiers, who were sent to look for the two hostages, encountered on Tuesday about 50 MILF guerrillas in Palimbang, Sultan Kudarat.

GOV'T SOLDIERS/A14

18 senators back Erap bid for knee surgery in US

By Cytnhia D. Balana

AT LEAST 18 senators have signed a resolution urging the government to allow deposed President Joseph Estrada to travel to the United States for knee surgery.

The resolution also called on the government to grant Estrada's request to consult a surgeon of his choice regarding the osteoarthritis afflicting both his knees.

Among those who have signed the resolution authored by Ople were Senate Majority Leader Loren Legarda and Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr.

The Sandiganbayan, which is trying Estrada for plunder, earlier turned down his request to undergo knee surgery in the United States, saying Filipino surgeons were as competent as their American counterparts.

Ople's resolution, however, contended that "the probability of flight on the part of Estrada was nil as it will blacken his name."

"Flight will suggest guilt and jeopardize his chances in the trial," it added.

Legarda said she signed the resolution because, according to her, the former President had the right to seek medical treatment anywhere in the world.

She said even the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos allowed jailed opposition leader, Sen. Benigno S. Aquino, to undergo heart surgery in the United States during martial law. Aquino, however, was assassinated upon his return to the country in 1983.

Even so, Sen. Tessie Aquino-Oreta, sister of the slain opposition leader, said she agreed with Legarda's point.

18 SENATORS/A15

House rallies behind Ani, junks impeach rap

By Juliet L. Javellana and Christine Avendaño

LIKE killing two birds with one stone, the House of Representatives last night upheld the justice committee's dismissal of the first impeachment complaint for bribery against Ombudsman Aniano Desierto.

They also protected him from the second complaint for one year. He retires in August.

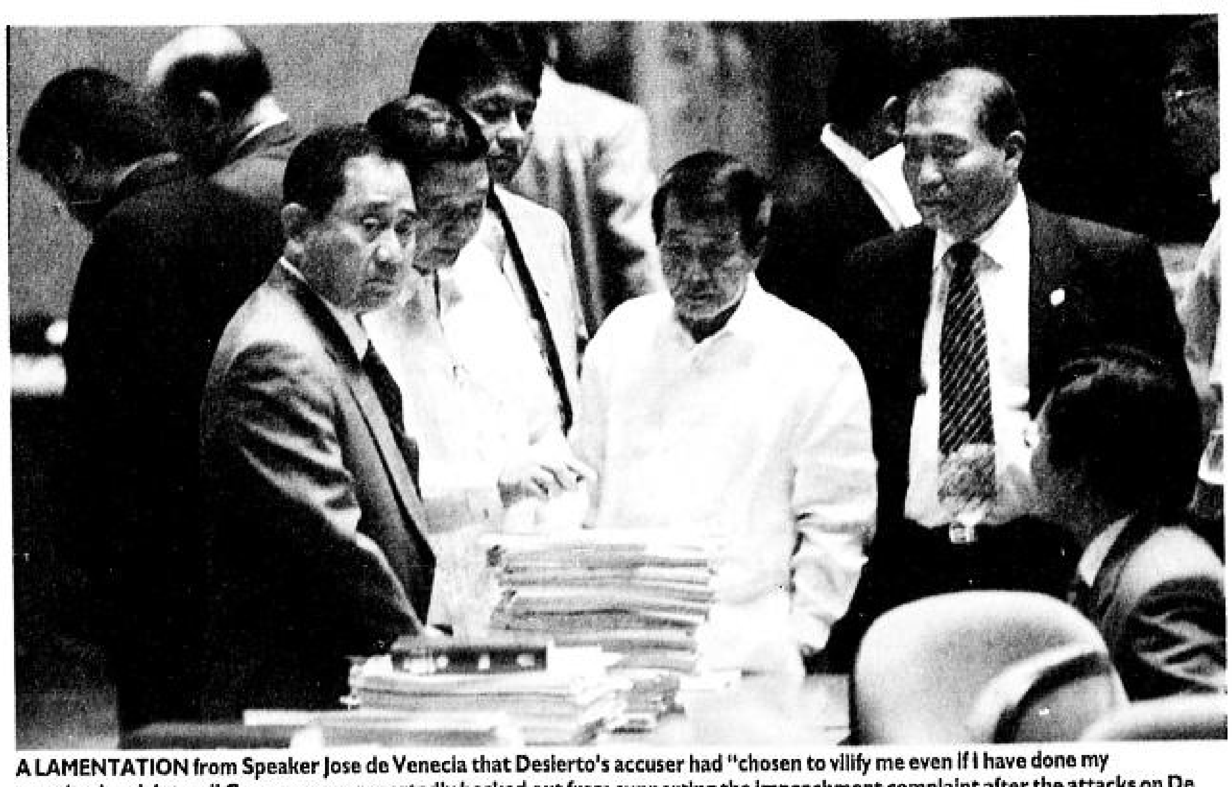
As of 9:50 last night, 93 congressman had voted to dismiss the impeachment complaint while 20 voted no. Two lawmakers abstained.

Speaker Jose de Venecia, who abstained in the voting, said Senate leaders had told him that they preferred not to have the impeachment complaint elevated to the Senate.

"I took the initiative of calling the leaders of the Senate because at the end of the day if we sustained the impeachment complaint, it would go up to the Senate," De Venecia said in explaining his vote.

"And invariably everybody told me: 'Please don't give that to us because we already have so many problems here,'" he said.

HOUSE/A15



A LAMENTATION from Speaker Jose de Venecia that Desierto's accuser had "chosen to vilify me even if I have done my constitutional duty..." Congressmen reportedly backed out from supporting the impeachment complaint after the attacks on De Venecia.

ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

Gov't loses ₱312-million Bulletin case

By Michael Lim Ubac

THE SUPREME Court has upheld a 1998 ruling of the Sandiganbayan favoring a holding company, which formerly owned majority shares in the Bulletin Publishing Corp.

The government is poised to lose P312.6 million following the promulgation of the adverse ruling on Jan. 21.

In a unanimous decision, the high court's First Division said the anti-graft court was right to lift the writ of sequestration of stocks, assets, property and records of the Hans M. Menzi Holdings and Management Inc. (HMHMI).

Menzi, the aide-de-camp of President Ferdinand Marcos during his first term, was the Bulletin publisher until his death in 1984.

With the ruling, the Supreme Court removes all doubts about the rights of ownership over the sequestered Bulletin shares. Thus, Hans M. Menzi Holdings can now freely exercise their vot-

GOV'T LOSES/A15

NO PLENARY VOTE

Camacho confirmation stalled

By Cynthia D. Balana

FINANCE Secretary Isidro Camacho's confirmation has been deferred yet again after a sub-committee of the bicameral Commission on Appointments decided against holding a plenary vote on the issue yesterday.

CAMACHO

The vote, which had been scheduled for the afternoon, was apparently called off after minority senators threatened to invoke Section 20 of the CA rules to stop Camacho's confirmation.

Section 20 is a non-debatable privilege of any member of the CA to stop the confirmation of a nominee. But it cannot be invoked during the last session day of the commission.

Though he was confident that Camacho would be confirmed as there were 14 CA members capable of carrying the vote, Senate President Franklin Drilon said that "for the best interest of everyone, we decided to call off the session."

Asked if he was trying to avoid embarrassing Camacho, Drilon quipped: "I was trying to avoid a bloodletting, if you may call it, on the floor of the commission."

Drilon said the CA's majority members wanted to avoid a highly politicized situation by adopting a cooling-off period.

"Now Sen. (Teresita) Oreta has the right to invoke Section 20 under our rules in the CA, which would call for a deferment of the nomination of the confirmation of Secretary Camacho for one week," said Drilon.

Oreta, who opposes Camacho's appointment on the basis of his alleged participation in the zero-coupon bonds "sham transaction," said she respected the decision of the CA leadership.

"As I have long been advocating," Oreta said, "we should stick to due process. If it is the decision of the majority to put Mr. Camacho's confirmation on hold, so be it. I will abide by that."

Drilon said he had informed Camacho, who was at the Senate yesterday for the finance committee hearings on the zero-coupon bond issue, about the decision not to hold the vote.

Camacho said he met Sen. John Osmeña, the chair of the Senate committee on finance conducting the investigation, and had exchanged pleasantries with him.

Camacho told reporters that he had appealed to the senator to let him explain the issue to the committee.

This was confirmed by Osmeña who quoted Camacho as telling him: "Tito Sonny *naman*."

Osmeña said that he had told Camacho not to worry as he would be called to testify before the committee wraps up its investigation.

EXPLOSIVES are unloaded from the container van intercepted at the Sasa wharf in Davao City.

Explosives cache seized in Davao wharf

By Anthony S. Allada
PDI Mindanao Bureau

DAVAO CITY—Authorities intercepted a large cache of explosives at the Sasa wharf here at around 2 p.m. yesterday.

Supt. Efren Valeriano, chief of the regional police mobile group in Southern Mindanao, said the explosives arrived on the MV Ocean Hope of Oceanic Shipping Lines and had come from Manila.

Valeriano said at 10 p.m. on Tuesday, police received a tip that a shipment of explosives had arrived in this city.

He said the authorities immediately contacted the Bureau of Customs and launched a search of container vans at the wharf.

He said they became suspicious of container van no. 1-28-446 because it was not locked. Customs rules prevent the shipment of unlocked container vans.

to turn up an application to transport from RV Enterprises.

Valeriano said he sent policemen to check on the consignee, but they found the company to be non-existent. This prompted the authorities to decide to open the van, he said.

Valeriano said acting local customs chief Fidel Camaniag granted police permission to open the van.

His men were stunned, Valeriano said, when they discovered at least 200 sacks of ammonium nitrate, detonators, blasting caps, safety fuses, detonating cords and dynamite inside the van.

The boxes in which the contraband was packed bore the name of Nitro Asia Corp., with address at Unit 401, Goldhill Tower, Annapolis Street, San Juan, Metro Manila.

Valeriano said they have not determined where the explosives were headed, but they might have been destined for illegal miners in Davao del Norte.
With Bing Gonzales, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Money traders back integrity of bonds

By Clarissa Batino

THE MONEY Market Association of the Philippines, a group of securities dealers, which trade in government papers, yesterday threw its support behind the Bureau of Treasury and vouched for the integrity of the auction of government securities.

Mart, comprising professional traders representing government securities eligible dealers (GSEDs), belied claims that some hanks have been complaining about the alleged lack of transparency in the auction of the 10-year, P35 billion zero coupon bonds, the so-called PEACe bonds last October.

"Mart did not receive any complaint from any GSED concerning this particular auction," said the group which represents 65 financial institutions knowledgeable about various Treasury products, including the zero coupon bonds.

"Our association firmly stands by the integrity of the government securities auction process," the group said in a statement.

National Treasurer Sergio Edeza, who is to testify today in the ongoing Senate investigation of the alleged scam, said investor confidence in the auction of government securities had not been affected by the controversy.

"Treasury bill rates continue to fall despite the controversy on the PEACe bonds and this shows that the market had not been affected by the accusations," said Edeza.

The benchmark 91-day Treasury bill rate has dropped to 7.278 percent, its lowest level in 15 years.

Sen. John Osmeña, who chairs of the committee on finance conducting the probe, said he would present two surprise witnesses at today's hearing.

Last Tuesday, Juan Ponce-Enrile, the former senator who is a tax lawyer, was presented as an expert witness. Enrile said the government officials allegedly involved in the PEACe bonds "scam" could be charged with plunder.

'Comfortable' trial for Nur

By TJ Burgonio

"TOO COMFORTABLE for a trial court and too friendly for an accused."

This was how a police official described the special courthouse being built for the trial of Moro rebel leader Nur Misuari inside a police training camp in Sta. Rosa, Laguna.

Deputy Director General Rex Piad, head of the Philippine National Police directorial staff, said the nearly finished courthouse would be far better than the cramped stuffy courtrooms of the country's regional trial courts.

The one-story building measures some 10 by 20 meters, is freshly painted and has a tiled floor, he said.

Aside from the sala and the judge's chambers, the courthouse has a conference room and spacious rooms for the defense and prosecution lawyers, as well as two standing air-conditioning units, Piad said.

"It's very accused-friendly. It's a comfortable place to be tried in. It's much better than the regular courtrooms I've been in," he told reporters in an interview.

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'BIASED JUSTICE'

Lacson wants Carpio out of Kuratong case

By Michael Lim Ubac

SEN. Panfilo Lacson has asked that Supreme Court Associate Justice Antonio Carpio be inhibited from participating in the deliberations on a petition to revive the Kuratong Baleleng cases now pending with the high court.

Lacson, who is one of several accused in the summary execution case, filed the motion on Tuesday, citing Carpio's alleged bias against him.

He was represented by lawyers Philip Sigrid Fortun and Gibert Santos.

"The Hon. Justice Antonio Carpio has by prior statements and published works, shown bias and partiality against respondent, particularly in wanting the latter to be caught, prosecuted and convicted," Lacson's petition said.

Lacson filed the motion to block Carpio's "hearing, deliberating and participating" in the SC proceedings on a petition for review and certiorari filed by government and civil society groups to reopen the controversial case.

The SC is being asked to reverse a ruling of the Court of Appeals, which issued on Aug. 24 a permanent injunction on the 11 cases against Lacson and 36 others for the alleged summary execution of 11 members of the Kuratong Baleleng criminal gang in 1995.

Solicitor General Marcelo, in the government's petition, questioned the earlier dismissal of the Kuratong cases and argued that the permanent injunction against reviving the cases was unlawful.

He said the injustice that the government was seeking to rectify did not commence when the CA issued the "infamous" ruling.

He said it started when Judge Wenceslao Agnir Jr. (now a Court of Appeals justice) dismissed the criminal cases against Lacson and his co-accused.

"One cannot imagine how Judge Agnir could think that the ghosts of the May 18, 1995 massacre victims can be laid to rest when justice was not done, when there was no due retribution, and the victims' most fundamental right—the right to life—has not been vindicated," Marcelo said.

Lacson, who was the national police chief of the previous Estrada administration, cited an opinion column written by Carpio while still a columnist with the INQUIRER.

Carpio, at the time a senior partner at the Carpio, Villaraza law office, was last October appointed by President Macapagal-Arroyo to the Supreme Court to fill up the seat vacated by Associate Justice Minerva Gonzaga-Reyes.

Lacson lifted a statement from Carpio's "Crosscurrents" column published on Aug. 12, 2001, which said: "There are many of us who would like to see Sen. Panfilo Lacson finally prosecuted for the Kuratong Baleleng rubout, a non-bailable multiple murder case."

"There are also many of us who are just waiting for evidence linking Lacson to the Bubby Dacer murder case, another non-bailable crime involving Lacson's closest aides, Michael Ray Aquino and Cesar Mancao. The two recently fled the country to escape criminal prosecution," Carpio had written.

Lacson said Carpio had expressed an "undeniable" bias against him and had already prejudged the case and his character.

"No reasonable man would expect detachment, dispassion and impartiality on this issue from the quotation's author," he said.

After quoting from other column items written by Carpio on Aug. 19, 26 and Sept. 10, 2001, he concluded that Carpio "(was) no longer wholly free, disinterested, impartial and independent."

He asked the court to allow for the Carpio's voluntary inhibition based on Section 1, Rule 137 of the Revised Penal Code.

The Solicitor General said the massacre was not a fiction but an "undisputed fact" and cited three grounds in asking for a reversal of the CA ruling.

First, Marcelo said Lacson himself did not invoke the two-year prescriptive period for reviving the case (Section 8, Rule 117, of the Revised Rules of Criminal Procedures) and yet it was the provision used by the appellate court to dismiss the cases and bar any further investigation and trial.

Danding still lords it over Cocobank

By Carlito Pablo

THE SUPREME Court may have ruled that the coconut levy funds are public but businessman Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco Jr. apparently continues to lord it over at the United Coconut Planters Bank and San Miguel Corp., the two businesses he allegedly acquired using the levy funds.

This grievance was aired yesterday by Joey Faustino, executive director of the Coconut Industry Reform Movement, even as he revealed that Malacañang has yet to successfully install President Macapagal-Arroyo's nominees to the 15-member UCPB board.

Faustino, one of the eight whom the President nominated last January, said no appointment papers had been handed out by the Palace.

"Nobody seems to know," Faustino said when asked where their appointment papers are.

"Nothing's clear and definite yet, except that directors of both the UCPB and SMC are waiting for Cojuangco's word, not the government's, whether they'll leave or not," Faustino said.

The government nominees to the UCPB include Presidential Commission on Good Government commissioner Ruben Carranza.

Of the eight nominees, four—including Faustino—were supposed to represent the coconut farmers.

At the SMC, the five directors nominated by ousted ex-President President Estrada have refused to vacate their seats, insisting that this question would have to be put to a vote during the SMC's regular stockholders' meeting in June.

The Supreme Court has yet to decide on a petition that the PCGG filed last June to unseat the overstaying Estrada nominees. Faustino noted with alarm that the Macapagal administration may not even be able install its five nominees to the SMC board before the special stockholders' meeting on Feb. 27.

The meeting is supposed to take up the ratification of the Cojuangco-brokered sale of 15 percent of SMC to the Japanese brewer Kirin, a transaction which critics fear would dilute the government's holdings in SMC bought with the coco levy funds.

A committee formed to review the transaction and headed by Trade Secretary Manuel "Mar" Roxas II said it has reached a tentative agreement with the Cojuangco camp.

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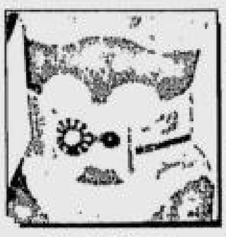

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PAMPANGA 961-2981/91 860-6921/22 Dan's Marketing Bldg., McArthur Highway San Fernando
CEBU 233-7637 233-7639 233-7641 Keppel Centre, Cebu City
NO EXERCISE MACHINES • NO WORKOUT CLASSES • NO PILLS OR INJECTIONS • NO HUNGER PAINS • NO MEDICATIONS • NO SURGERY

Airports on high alert for 17 Arab terrorists

IMMIGRATION intelligence agents at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport and at the country's other ports of entry have been placed on high alert after US authorities revealed that 17 Arab terrorists are planning to bomb US and British interests outside their territories.

The US Federal Bureau of Investigation passed on the information to the local Bureau of Immigration to prevent the entry into the country of suspected Yemeni and Saudi terrorists, reportedly allied with Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida terrorist network.

US authorities supposedly gathered the intelligence information from detained al-Qaida and Taliban fighters, who were arrested by US forces when they overran suspected terrorist strongholds in Afghanistan.

The identities of the suspected terrorists reportedly cropped up during the interrogation of nabbed Bin Laden followers at the US military base in Guantanamo Bay in Cuba.

Immigration Commissioner Andrea Domingo placed the bureau's intelligence agents at the Naia and other points of entry to prevent the suspected terrorists from slipping into the country.

Intelligence agents at the country's other international airports in Mactan, Davao, Laoag and Pampanga have likewise been informed.

The FBI information identified the suspected leader of the planned bombing attacks as Fawaz Yahya Al Rabeei a.k.a. Furqan. He is reportedly a Yemeni.

Some of the terrorists' names already figured in the old listing provided the BI by the Interpol.

Malaysian not yet off the hook

A MALAYSIAN man detained at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport last week is being investigated for possible leads on the operation of a terrorist organization in his homeland, a senior police official said yesterday.

Azmi Salleh, who reportedly runs a travel agency, was stopped from leaving for Kuwait on Friday at the airport by security officers who found he was carrying 104 passports and about $57,000 in cash.

Salleh also was carrying a map of Afghanistan and a cell phone with the name Osama bin Laden displayed on the screen, but police had no immediate evidence to connect him to the al-Qaida network.

Chief Supt. Marcelo Ele Jr., head of the police Aviation Security Group, said Malaysian police have sent investigators to Manila and have begun questioning Salleh.

"He is not being positively identified (as a terrorist suspect)," Ele said. "But (Malaysian police want) to get some leads from him because of the similarity of his modus operandi with an organization that they have uncovered based in Malaysia that is connected with a terrorist organization."

Ele did not identify the groups, but said the operation involved "a matter of finance and the facilitation of travel of Malaysians within the region." He gave no other details.

"Insofar as the Malaysian government is concerned, they haven't really cleared the guy," he said. "They have been subjecting him to investigation, in coordination with the immigration and the (Aviation Security Group)."

Immigration Commissioner Andrea Domingo was not immediately available for comment. Immigration Bureau spokesperson Raymond Salting said Salleh is being detained pending deportation for working without a permit and for trying to carry out more than $10,000 without the required central bank clearance.

Asked about Salleh's possible links with terror groups, Salting said, "Negative. He is really just a travel agent."

In Malaysia, Salleh's family has pleaded for his release, saying he has no ties to terrorist groups.

Salleh runs a travel agency that helps Malaysians obtain visas to perform the annual Muslim pilgrimage to Mecca, Salleh's relatives were quoted as saying Sunday by the Sunday Star and New Sunday Times newspapers.

"He is very shy and quiet, without any political affiliations nor links to the al-Qaida movement," Mat Wahid Ali, Salleh's father-in-law, was quoted as saying at his home in Kuala Terengganu.

Malaysian officials said they were investigating the case.

"We understand... he was carrying so many passports to get visas," Deputy Prime Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi was quoted as saying by the New Sunday Times. "That is the story so far, but the police are investigating if there are other things linked to him." *AP*

Republic of the Philippines
QUEZON CITY
Office of the City Treasurer

NOTICE OF SALES OF DELINQUENT REAL PROPERTY

By virtue of the provisions of Section 260 & 263 of RA 7160, otherwise known as The Local Government Code of 1991, the undersigned will sell at public auction on February 27, 2002, between the hours of 10:00 - 12:00 A.M. and 1:30 - 4:30 P.M. at the main entrance of the City Hall Quadrangle, Elliptical Rd., Diliman, Quezon City, the real property herein below specified which are hereby certified to be delinquent in the payment of real estate tax, to satisfy all delinquent real property taxes, penalties, and costs due thereon as of the date of sale.

Republika ng Pilipinas
LUNGSOD QUEZON
Tanggapan ng Ingat-Yaman

PATALASTAS TUNGKOL SA PAGSUSUBASTA SA ARI-ARIANG DI NATITINAG NA AMOROSO SA BUWIS

Alinsunod sa itinatadhana ng Section 260 & 263 ng RA 7160, o ang tinatawag na Local Government Code of 1991 ang nakalagda sa ibaba ay magsusubasta sa publiko sa Pebrero 27, 2002, sa pagitan na 10:00 - 12:00 ng umaga at 1:30 - 4:30 ng hapon sa bungad ng City Hall Quadrangle, Elliptical Rd., Diliman, Quezon City, ng mga ari-ariang binabanggit sa ibaba na napatunayan na hindi bayad upang mabayaran ang amorosong buwis, multa at halaga ng pagsusubasta.

PIN #	BLK	LOT	AREA SQ.	BARANGAY	KIND	CLASSIFICATION	TD NO.	N A M E	YEAR	AMOUNT
1-895-B	11	11		Doña Aurora	I	R	1002	CLARA M. APCIBLE	94-00	49,022.13
1-2274-1	48	4-T		Sto. Niño	I	R	1049	IRENEO CRUZ	90-00	16,180.22
2-206-A-60	1	573		Doña Imelda	I	R	2326	PHIL. WHITEHOUSE AUTO SUPPLY	95-00	157,312.85
2-428-M-2	13	585		Imelda/Santol	MACH.	I	3414	BUZON PRESS INC.	79-00	593,298.75
2-1103-A	7R	607	64	SANTOL	L&I	R	1955	JEROME JAVELLANA & CRISTINA	96-00 .	12,643.66
3-508-A	87	6	66	TATALON	L&I	R	D-3481	ERNESTO GRANADINO	82-00	20,358.78
3-7674	12	2	48	tatalon	L&I	R	3816	RUFO RODRIGUEZ	96-00	33,792.05
3-8868	6	7	67.1	Talayan	L&I	R	612	JOSEPH LORENZO	88-00	49,141.17
5-190	16	143	240	Gintong Silahis	L	R	1583	MERCEDES P. SILVA	95-00	48,416.15
9-706-A	12	40	401.3	T. Village	L&I	R	629	FRANCISCO DIAZ	96-00	55,742.47
9-1965-C-9	5 & 6	106		Central	I	R	2386	EAGLE COURT CONDOMINIUM CORP.	93 - 00	14,829.91
9-1965-C-31	5 & 6	106		CENTRAL	I	R	1552	EAGLE COURT CONDO. CORP.	99-00	6,377.55
9-1063	22	E-60	417.4	West T. Village	L&I	R	296	ANTONIO P. DEL ROSARIO	94-00	23,252.54
10-280	20	207	201.4	Poj. 2-A	L&I	R	1660	CRISTINA B. RUIZ	95-00	21,255.85
10-517	14	211	210	Quirino 2-B	L&I	R	36	CARMEN P. RAMOS	86-00	46,157.48
10-669	33	215	228.3	Quirino 2-B	L&I	R	166	FAUSTINO B. CONCEPCION	91 - 00	15,339.50
10-699	23	216	215.6	Quirino 2-B	L&I	R	D-698	ESTRELITA HERNANDO SANCHEZ	96-00	23,494.02
10-805	69	217		Quirino 2-B	L&I	R	589	ALFEO ZALDIVAR	96-00	16,948.82
10-1378-5-A	33-F	308	268.3	Claro	L&I	R	312	PEDRO DELAS ALAS	96-00	12,005.29
10-1941-1	2-A	420	248.4	Bagong Buhay	L&I	R	D-1050	BIENVENIDO MAGSINO	96-00	31,495.27
10-3271-1	13	470	210.1	Milagrosa	L&I	R	2471	CLARENCIO FORONDA	94-00	15,423.29
10-3448	8	LCH-479	207	T. Mascardo	L&I	R	413	RITA BRUNO & SAMUEL BRUNO	96-00	19,709.62
10-3449	9	LCH-479	234.2	T. Mascardo	L&I	R	414	LILIA D. TRANCE	96-00	28,178.23
11-339	45	11	198.7	Veterans	L&I	R	309	ANTONIO NERIDA	94-00	11,598.30
12-94	8	4	600	Silangan	L&I	R	526	LUIS RIBAYA	92-00	37,669.50
12-50	18	2PSD	450	Silangan	L&I	R	304	QUINTIN SANTIAGO	79-00	56,049.28
12-411	2	10	200	E. Rodriguez	C	R	188	MELICIA DIAZ VDA. DE CARPIO	93-00	36,090.00
12-451	9	13-PCS	600	E. Rodriguez	L	R	212	GERONIMO BATTUNG, JR.	96-00	33,486.75
12-954	3	31	600	E. Rodriguez	L&I	C	D-1225	BASILIA HUERTA ESTATE	96-00	193,017.63
13-4055	6	10	324	San Roque	L	R	1134	RAMON F. MENDOZA	88-00	20,838.53
13-8673	1	3	223	Bagumbayan	L	R	1035	MAXIMO RAMOS	87-00	17,100.47
13-922	12	5-PCS	440	Socorro	L&I	R	789	MERCEDES BULANADI	89-00	49,957.28
11-432	12	13	200.5	Veterans	L&I			ROGELIO SOMICO	96-00	19,649.94
1--2330	117	FLS.2592-D	600	GULOD	L	R	D-043-01126	TEODORO FLORO	79-00	15,574.73
3-8313	36	1	64.1	TATALON	L&I	R	4540	NHA-FRANCISO SULIBA	84-00	15,778.28
1-459	2	175	211.8	Sto. Niño	L&I	R	1587	MARIETA M. ABUEL	93-00	20,782.88
2-32-M-3	6	561		Doña Imelda	Mach.	C	3100	BANK OF THE PHILIPPINE ISLAND	94-00	33,632.34
5-185	11-A	143	100	G. Silahis	L&I	R	887	DONATO S. ROXAS	95-00	13,682.64
9-727	4	E-42	400	E. Teacher	L	R	48	TEODORA COLLANTES	96-00	20,295.00
10-3448-B	8	lch-479	207	Villa Ma. Clara	L&I	R	413	RITA BRUNO & SAMUEL BRUNO	96-00	19,709.62
12-583-1	16	19		E. Rodriguez	I	C	3217	ROSITA DELA PAZ	94-00	20,383.44
16-2331-M-3	2	S-149		South Triangle	Mach.	C	4623	ICEBERG REFRESHMENT PARLOR	93-00	18,735.84
16-2331-C-4	2	S-K19		South Triangle	Mach.	C	4624	ICEBERG REFRESHMENT PARLOR	94-00	12,155.69
18-1153	8	6	401	P.Tamo	L	R	4175	AIDA VENTURA	87-00	16,711.76
18-28289	2A	psd	65	Bahay Toro	L&I	R	12157	AZUCENA GARCIA/DELSA SEMA	89-00	54,909.42
18-35835	832-A-1	PSD-007404-024883-D	939	Bahay Toro	L	R	11110	CONRADO BORLEO	96-00	23,856.46
19-4381	18	49	150	Sta. Lucia	L&I	R	1917	ALFREDO L. FERRERA	88-00	23,494.04
20-716	4	19	500	Kaligayahan	L&I	R	14697	ALEGADO, FILMER	95-00	28,419.95
17-4538	465B2B	PSD-97555	29369	KAINGIN	L	R		REALTY BARON CORP.	79(C)-00	1,406,012.00
19-2980	494-A-6-F-2	LRCPSD-25661	600	San Bartolome	L	R		ELENA SABILE MEDVA	74-00	16,952.45
11-432	12	13	200.5	VETERANS	L&I	R		ALFREDO OASAN	96-00	16,294.18
19-2330	117	SLS-2592-D	600	GULOD	L	R	D-043-01126	TEODORO FLORO	79-00	15,574.73
20-2441	FLS-2696-D	36	1,980	STA. MONICA	L	R	D-115-04169	SEVERINO A. CORTEZ	62-00	54,751.50
20-2628	FLS-2696-D	228	920	STA. MONICA	L	R	D-115-04200	DOMINGO FRANCO PAGKALINAWAN	57-00	25,065.62
20-2431	FLS-2696-D	36	400	STA. MONICA	L	R	D-115-00022	AURORA FRANCO	62-00	10,231.43
16-2519	RP-3B-B-A-1-B-2		83,605.00	Central	L	SC	1532	KIDNEY CENTER FOUNDATION	87-00	9,635,399.34
20-2127	VARIOUS			San Agustin				MWSS	85-00	142,826,020.62

I hereby certify that pursuant to Section 258 of RA 7160 otherwise known as The Local Government Code of 1991, the foregoing statement of delinquencies is a correct transcript of the records of this Office as of February 12, 2002.

(SGD.) VICTOR B. ENDRIGA, Ph.D.
OIC, City Treasurer
Quezon City

Dito'y pinatitibayan ko alinsunod sa Seksiyong 258 ng RA 7160, kilala rin bilang The Local Government Code of 1991, na ang mga nauunang paglalahad ng pagkakautang ay wastong salin ng talaan sa Tanggapang ito hanggang Pebrero 12, 2002.

(SGD.) VICTOR B. ENDRIGA, Ph.D.
OIC, City Treasurer
Quezon City

VALENTINE'S DAY ADVICE

DOMs told: Easy on Viagra

By Armand N. Nocum

A TOP heart specialist has advised old romantics to go slow in expressing their love in a physical way on Valentine's Day, lest they unduly strain their hearts.

"We get more consultations for heart problems from older folk on Feb. 15—the day after—especially from those in their 50s and up who were up to 'dirty old man' tricks," said Dr. Ludgerio Torres, medical director of the Philippine Heart Center (PHC).

Reminding people that heart disease is now the number one killer ailment in the country, Dr. Torres also reminded those going out on "dates" not to misuse the erection drug Viagra and to practice safe sex by using condoms.

"Those with coronary heart disease cannot take Viagra. That is contra-indicated—it will force your blood pressure to drop, you will collapse and fall. That will spoil your Valentine's," he said.

Torres said it had been observed that the number of people going to the PHC for heart consultations increases the day after Valentine's.

Many of them complain of chest pains or high blood pressure, he said.

Interviewed during the inauguration of a heart information center at the PHC, Torres surmised that some of the stress comes from the older folk having sex with persons other than their legitimate partners.

"They complain of chest pains, headaches, high blood pressure, stress, but they will never admit they went on a date with an illegitimate partner," he said.

The information center was put up by the PHC Medical Alumni Society and Pfizer, the drug company that manufactures Viagra. It is intended to allow patients, doctors and paramedical professionals to update themselves on the latest techniques in heart trouble management.

Asked if older people who date should therefore limit themselves to "platonic love," Torres replied that was also not advisable.

"You cannot just be staring at each other, feeling *ng* feeling *lang*. *Ituloy mo* (Go for it). *Pag*-suppressed, *tataas rin yun* incidence (of high blood pressure), *talagang ituloy mo* (just go for it)," he said.

But Health Secretary Manuel Dayrit advised older lovers to just stick to non-sexual expressions of love on Valentine's Day.

"Don't always think about the physical. It's a time for reflection, affirmation and a time for being demonstrative in a very, very loving and concerned way toward a loved one," Dayrit said.

He, however, echoed the PHC head's warning to old romantics with heart problems.

"They say it's a dangerous day here—Feb. 15. They have more heart patients (after the) physical activities of Valentine's Day," he said.

No party tonight in Estrada suite

By TJ Burgonio

IT looks like it will be a quiet night on the day of love for deposed President Joseph Estrada.

Even if he wanted to, the ousted chief executive will not be allowed to throw a party on Valentine's Day, or any other day, in his detention suite at the Veterans Memorial Medical Center, like he did during the Christmas holidays.

"That's out of the question. That's not part of his privileges," said a police official, who asked not to be named.

Chief Supt. Prospero Noble Jr., head of Estrada's security detail at the VMMC, said the ex-president will not be allowed to throw a party without clearance from national police chief Director General Leandro Mendoza.

"We'll not allow it this time. Remember what happened last Christmas?" Noble said, referring to the lavish impromptu party that Estrada hosted in his suite.

The affair, during which Estrada attacked the Macapagal administration on national TV for not delivering on its pro-poor programs, led to the relief of a police general and two officers in charge of the ousted leader's security.

Noble said, however, that Estrada could still submit a formal request to hold a party to Mendoza. So far, he said, he had not seen such a request forwarded to Mendoza.

"Usually this is approved subject to certain conditions," he said, like the prohibition on bringing cameras into the hospital without court clearance.

While Estrada seems to have no plans to party today, a longer queue of visitors is expected. "We expect an extraordinary number of visitors to call on him on this special day," Noble said.

Estrada and his son, former San Juan Mayor Jinggoy Estrada, are being held at the VMMC while their plunder trial at the Sandiganbayan is ongoing.

Since the Christmas incident, police officers guarding Estrada have been ordered to strictly enforce visiting hours—which are from 8 to 11:30 in the morning and 1 to 5 in the afternoon.

Only members of his immediate family, his lawyers and those on the list of 72 authorized visitors can see him after 5 p.m. and may stay up to 10 p.m.

"That's why Guia (Gomez) and Laarni (Enriquez) can't just come and go," said Noble, referring to two of Estrada's mistresses.

The police guards are also reshuffled regularly to avoid becoming familiar with Estrada or his family, Noble said.

Estrada himself has become careful when it comes to giving media interviews.

According to a police official, a major TV network had managed to get the Sandiganbayan's permission to interview the ex-president last month, but Estrada backed out at the last minute.

"Apparently he did not like it that some police officials would be present during the interview," the official said.

Hundreds seek to block stolen cell phones

By Abigail L. Ho

THE NATIONAL Telecommunications Commission said hundreds of prepaid cellular phone subscribers all over the country have applied to have their stolen handsets blocked, following the signing of a memorandum of agreement with the cellular phone firms allowing the procedure last week.

NTC chief Eliseo Rio Jr. said in an interview yesterday that 300 subscribers from the National Capital Region, as well as hundreds more from different regions in the country, have filed "blocking" applications with the agency.

After Metro Manila, Baguio City has the most number of applicants, Rio said. This is because cellphone-snatching has become rampant in the country's summer capital, he added.

The actual blocking, however, of the phone lines by Globe Telecom Inc., Smart Communications Inc. and their subsidiaries, Isla Communications and Pilipino Telephone Corp., cannot be implemented as yet, Rio said.

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THE DAILY GOSPEL

Thursday, February 14, 2002
Thursday after Ash Wednesday

1st Reading: **Dt 30:15-20**
Gospel: **Lk 9:22-25**

Jesus said, "The Son of Man must suffer many things. He will be rejected by the elders and chief priests and teachers of the Law, and put to death. Then after three days he will be raised to life."

Jesus also said to all the people, "If you wish be a follower of mine, deny yourself and take up your cross each day, and follow me. For if you choose to save your life, you will lose it, and if you lose your life for my sake, you will save it. What does it profit you to gain the whole world while you destroy or damage yourself?

Commentary

Lent invites us to come home. Today's first reading opens a door, the door of listening, not just with the ears, but with the heart. A good theme for Valentine's day!

"I have set before you life or death, blessing or curse. Choose life."

The heart is where choices are born and made. Lent is a school of the heart, a time to learn to make the choices Jesus made. Choose life? But in today's gospel Jesus says, "I'm going to be rejected and put to death… and if you want to follow me get ready to lose your life too!" If you listen only with the ears, you won't understand this. Nelson Mandela, Maximilian Kolbe, Oscar Romero, Ninoy Aquino, Rhoel Gallardo, remember any man or woman you know who sacrificed life or freedom, inspired by love.

Did they choose death? Or life? Did they lose their lives? Or did they save them?

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Happy Valentine's Day!

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MERCANTILE LAW (CORPORATION LAW)—Corporate officers can be held civilly liable—The general rule is that the officer cannot be held personally liable with the corporation, whether civilly or otherwise, for the consequences of his acts, if he acted for and in behalf of the corporation, within the scope of his authority and in good faith. In such cases, the officer's acts are properly attributed to the corporation. However, it is proven that the officer has used the corporate fiction to defraud a third party, or that he has acted negligently, maliciously or in bad faith, then the corporate veil shall be lifted and he shall be held personally liable for the particular corporate obligation involved. [Citations omitted.] [Justice Gonzaga-Reyes, Third Division, Francisco v. Mejia, G.R. No. 141617, August 14, 2001]

DIGEST BY R.B. VERA

HAPPY HEARTS SALE!
February 14 - 28
25th ANNIVERSARY
MAIN SHOWROOM: 1084 EDSA MUNOZ, Q.C. Tels. 926-1504, 921-3342 E-mail: wilcon@wilcon.com.ph
BRANCHES: *QUEZON AVE. BRANCH:* 24 Quezon Ave. between Banawe and D. Tuazon, Quezon City Tels. 711-4105, 712-3673, 712-3627, 743-8147 to 49, 743-8144 Fax. 711-4120 • *EDSA ORTIGAS BRANCH:* 199 EDSA nr. cor. Ortigas Ave. Mandaluyong, City Tels. 726-0218, 726-0573, 726-5603 Fax: 725-0292 • *PASAY BRANCH:* No. 16 C. Jose St., cor EDSA, Malibay, Pasay City Tels. 551-7447, 551 7574, 551-7631, 551-7635 Fax: 832-0242 • *MAKATI BRANCH:* Unit 128, Anson's Arcade, Pasay Road, Makati City Tels. 812-9707, 812-9709, 894-0569 Fax. 812-9708 • *MINDANAO AVE. BRANCH:* 143 WBS Bldg., Mindanao Ave., Bahay Toro, District 1, Quezon City Tels. 454-9709, 454-9710, 951-5596 • *LAS PIÑAS BRANCH:* Alabang-Zapote Road, Almanza Uno, Las Piñas City Tels. 807-8178, 807-8206, 807-8218, 807-8290 Fax: 807-8233 • *PASONG TAMO BRANCH:* 2212 Pasong Tamo, beside Cityland Tower, infront of Don Bosco Chapel, Makati City Tels. 893-3142, 893-3127, 893-3172, 893-3161, 893-3148 Fax. 893-3108 • *LIBIS BRANCH:* Lot 35-B, Block 11, Acropolis Green Village E. Rodriguez Jr. Bagumbayan, Quezon City Tel Nos.: 637-5623, 637-2305
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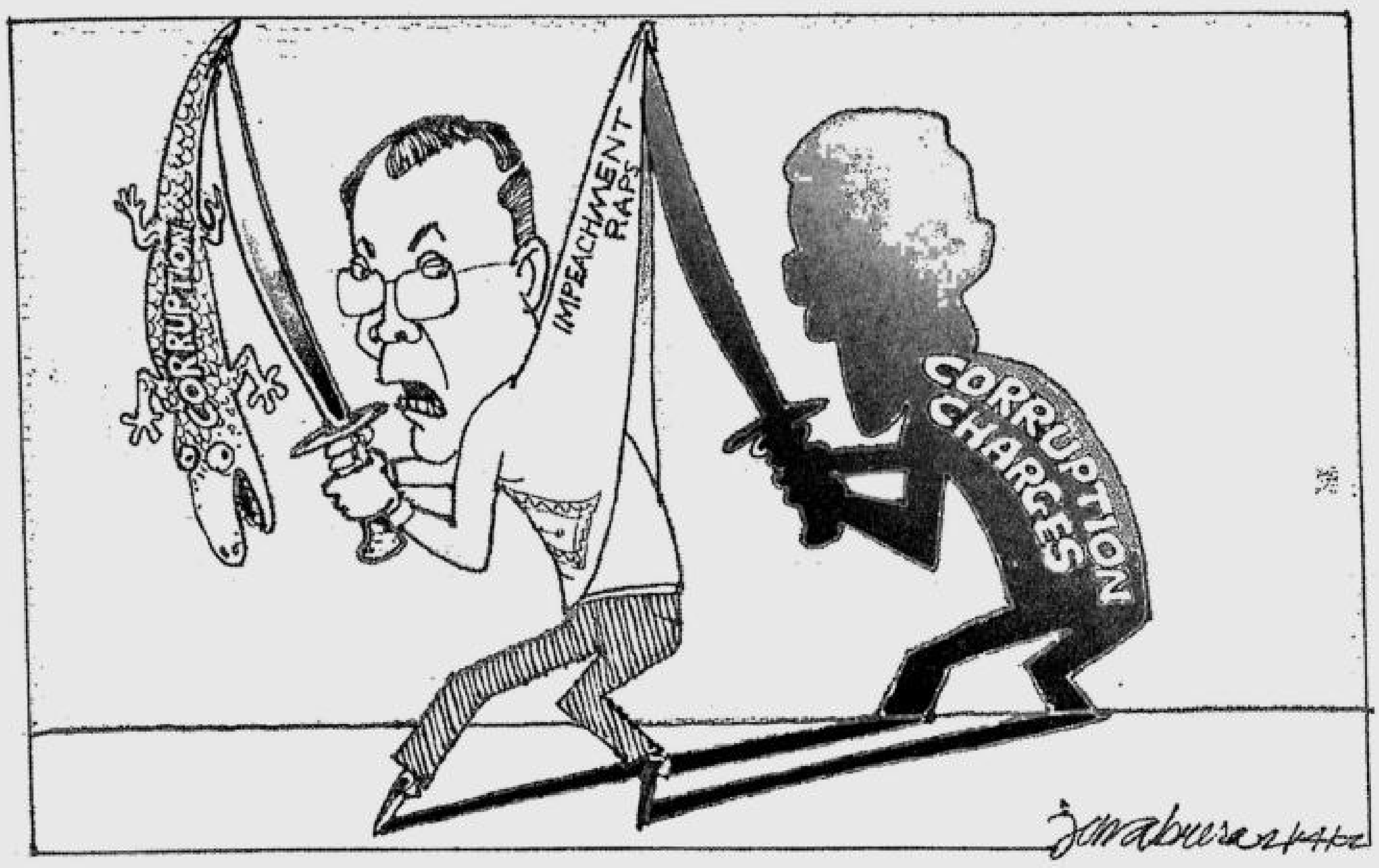


Abuse of the filibuster

EDITORIAL

IN THE TRADITION of the Philippine legislature, the filibuster has been used by its members, usually in the minority, to defeat a bill, secure amendments, or block the reorganization of the chambers. Basically, it is a weapon to delay, through endless debates, putting a motion to a vote. It is also the weapon of last resort of the minority to check the tyranny of numbers of the majority through an extension of the freedom of speech.

The filibuster can also be abused, especially if deployed by inept legislators such as Sen. Tessie Aquino-Oreta who has used it to block the confirmation of Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho in the Commission on Appointments. In all previous instances of filibustering, the victims of the delaying tactics were members of Congress themselves, not outsiders. For example, in the 1960s, Sen. Roseller Lim staged probably the longest filibuster in our legislative history—lasting for four days and four nights—to block the election of Sen. Ferdinand Marcos to the Senate presidency. The delay was intended to buy time until the arrival of Sen. Alejandro Almendras who had goiter surgery in the United States. Almendras held the crucial vote.

Recently, Sen. Sergio Osmeña III filibustered for more than two days to block the reorganization of the new Senate following the May 2001 mid-term elections. He and Lim, as well as other filibusterers of lesser fame (or notoriety), used the weapon to block changes involving members themselves.

Oreta got the wrong cue, and one is not surprised, given her limited vision. She used the filibuster to block the confirmation of a Cabinet member, an outsider. Which is not surprising. She missed the cue when she took a *"balato"* of P1 million from the gambling winnings of her favorite president, Joseph Estrada, and returned the gift plus interest after Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson disclosed the goings-on on the presidential yacht. She also missed the cue when she danced a jig to celebrate the Senate's decision to keep sealed the envelope containing evidence in the impeachment trial of Estrada, and ended on the wrong side of history. Missing the cue the third time—by brandishing the two-edged blade called the filibuster—can prove fatal to her undistinguished legislative career.

In the first place, Oreta could not sustain a filibuster without revealing the shallowness of her cause. In her few hours of questioning of Camacho in the CA's finance committee, she exhausted her reserves quickly. She repeated the questions she had raised in three previous hearings, boring the gallery and prompting fellow senators to call her attention to her repetitiveness. At some point, she was asking Camacho such nonsense as: In your farm, what animals do you raise? Are they imported? In brief, she flooded the chamber with gibberish that is neither helpful for legislation nor an enhancement of knowledge, let alone intelligence. She let loose an avalanche of rubbish and only provoked strong public revulsion against her method.

The public does not mind—indeed, it is amused—if members of Congress use the filibuster to check and countercheck one another, for that is part of the legislative game. The filibuster is part of the legislative circus which distracts the public's attention away from the way members of Congress squander time and taxpayers' money doing other things than their main occupation, which is passing good laws.

Oreta has introduced a new edge to the filibuster, by using it as a weapon of revenge not on members but on a non-member of Congress. The purpose of the CA is to screen the qualifications of appointed officials and approve if they qualify. Oreta has distorted this purpose and abused the instrument of the filibuster.

In the 14-1 vote of the CA's finance committee which endorsed Camacho's confirmation, the lone dissenting vote was cast by Oreta. That lone vote only showed how isolated she is.

Worthy of respect

FOREIGN COMMENT

EXACTLY half a century ago, in a rough-and-ready Kenyan tree house, the young Princess Elizabeth heard the sad and daunting news that her father George VI had died and that she had become queen.

The House of Windsor has undergone many vicissitudes in the decades since. The nation has itself changed. But in all the turmoil, her subjects have kept their respect and affection for a head of state who has reigned longer than all but five of her predecessors in the last 800 years. ***The Daily Mail (London)***

The other Gloria in Malacañang

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

THERE is another Gloria in Malacañang. She is Gloria Tan-Climaco, an accountant who was formerly with the accounting and auditing firm of Sycip, Gorres and Velayo. Gloria the accountant has been tapped by the President to look into certain questionable government contracts. Recently she reportedly found one contract to be really "onerous" and reported this to the President.

Gloria the President reportedly confronted the Cabinet member with the accountant's findings. The secretary replied that the contract had already been signed by his predecessor when he assumed office.

What did he do to correct the onerous terms?

It's a valid contract, he said. I cannot change it without being sued by the other contracting party.

That was not good enough for Gloria the President. He could have negotiated for better terms but he did no such thing, she said.

As a result, the Cabinet member is in dutch with Gloria the President and he is furious with Gloria the accountant because of it.

What's going to happen to the secretary now? Gloria the President gave him one last chance. If he still flunks that, he would be considered as the administration's weakest link, and so, goodbye.

* * *

Today is Valentine's Day, the day for lovers, and I feel so sorry for lovers who are breaking up. Parañaque Mayor Joey Marquez, for example, was almost in tears on television the other night as he confessed that he still loved Alma Moreno and that he was so sorry they broke up and now he wished they could be together again.

Witnessing scenes like this make me sad. I felt the same way when Martin Nievera confessed, also on TV, that he still loved Pops Fernandez and wished they could be together again.

Why do lovers break up in the first place? Love is such sweet happiness it is hard to understand why and how lovers lose it. I mean, they got married so there must have been plenty of love in the beginning. So what happened to it? Where did it go? Why did it go away? Can't it come back again? (This sounds like maudlin lyrics for a song.)

I mean, unless there's a third party to the breakup, there must be a little spark left after all those years of sharing happy moments together, and it needs only a little breath of a breeze to make that spark grow into a full-blown fire to warm heart and body.

But usually, it is pride, the first of the deadly sins, that prevents that spark from growing. Neither of the parties wants to make the first move because of pride. Neither is brave enough to admit that he or she made a mistake and is asking for forgiveness. How many couples who broke up want to be back together again but pride prevents them from doing that?

So remember that: pride is the deadliest of sins, not only in love but also in other things. (Now this is beginning to sound like a sermon.) Eschew pride and it will be replaced by happiness.

* * *

Happily coinciding with Valentine's Day is the happy announcement that Sen. Loren Legarda and husband Tony Leviste will have their third baby this October. Congratulations. That baby will be the first Senate baby in the history of Congress. Wouldn't it be fitting if he or she becomes a senator, too?

* * *

Another coincidence, says a friend, is that Valentine's Day comes only a couple of days after the Chinese lunar New Year, which is the year of the water horse. Valentine's Day is the day for lovers, he said, and the horse has the largest sex appendage in the world, bigger than those of elephants and whales, the biggest animals.

So what are your driving at? I asked.

Nothing, he replied. The idea just hit me.

So what do you think?

* * *

Hell hath no fury like a woman scorned, wrote Shakespeare. Singapore tax collectors are using this bit of wisdom from the bard to collect taxes from tax cheats. They are tempting scorned mistresses, wives and lovers to squeal on their ex-partners who cheated on their taxes. Judging from the tax money rolling into government coffers, there are many scorned—and vindictive—lovers in Singapore. Taxes recovered from tax evaders rose 75 percent last year.

What is the moral of the story? If you are cheating on your taxes, don't cheat your lover, too.

Popularity

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

MY friend Pepe Miranda says President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo may have taken heart from surveys that show the public supports American troops in the Philippines. His own group, he says, found a "strong sentiment" in favor of getting US help to fight the Abu Sayyaf. That was the result of a survey they did in December, whose results they will make public soon.

I will not take issue with what questions they raised, or what caveats they made. I myself am not surprised by that finding. It's not only very possible, it's very probable.

The surveys during the US bases debate more than a decade ago also showed more Filipinos wanted the bases in than out. Richard Gordon didn't just have the residents of Olongapo behind him, he had the residents of many parts of this country so. Many of them wanted the US bases for no other reason than that they liked having "Joe" around.

I myself have always said that if a plebiscite were held to determine if Filipinos would like to make their country the 51st state of the United States, it would win hands down. Probably by a greater margin than the one Sen. Noli de Castro held over his nearest rival—or indeed the one Erap held over his. You don't have to go very far to know what the results of such a plebiscite would be. All you have to do is pass by the US Embassy. The same ratio between the number of applicants for US visas and the number of protesters outside its gates will register there.

Two factors in particular should make the US troops in Basilan widely acceptable. Or two biases, which is really what they are.

The first is the traditional pro-American bias of most Filipinos, one fuelled in no small way by the non-traditional OFW phenomenon of the last couple of decades. Many Filipinos now see working abroad as the way out of their misery, and even more Filipinos see working in America as the ultimate dream. America equates with dollars. As Gordon suggested a decade ago, America you can eat, sovereignty you cannot. He was wrong, of course, being the first to eat the fruits of the SBMA, but that's another story. But if many Filipinos would like nothing better than to be American citizens, then they would like nothing better than to have American Rambos running around in their country.

The second is the equally traditional anti-Muslim bias of most Filipinos—or Christian Filipinos, since the Muslims in the South, though that is often forgotten, are also Filipinos. The history of this country having been written by the conqueror, we do not see the Muslims in the South as the one group of Filipinos that furiously resisted colonial occupation, we see them as the one group of people that furiously resisted, and continues to resist, civilization. The American effort to pacify the South bequeathed one word to the English language, which is "amuck," a corruption of "*amok*." A word, or thorn, that has been embedded in the national psyche. We like to think of the Muslims in the South as people who run amuck, for no other reason than that they like to.

No, I am not surprised that many Filipinos like having American troops in this country in the heart of Muslim Mindanao.

But that only brings us to the question: Why should any responsible leader of this country, particularly one professing to own a high IQ, want only to pander to the biases of her countrymen? Or, in this case, to exploit them thoroughly for selfish ends?

The **exact** parallel here in fact is Edsa II versus "Edsa III," or the right and moral way versus the popular but benighted way. Easily, "Edsa III" had more numbers than Edsa II, but its cause was the more spurious, which is why I've always put "Edsa III" in quotation marks. We keep wondering how the masses can be so stupid as to cling to someone who has obviously ripped them off and made them more miserable than they were. We keep wondering how the masses can be so dumb as to be duped into thinking Erap is *para sa mahirap* when he drinks scotch and wine that go for a fortune a pop and houses his mistresses in mansions. We keep wondering how the masses can be so blind as to see only the myth of the avenging hero and not the reality of the besotted fool. Are we any different to think—indeed espouse—American military presence in the same way?

Are we any less stupid to cling to agreements with the United States that have obviously ripped us off and left us more miserable than we were? Are we any less dumb to be duped into thinking the American heart bleeds for the Filipino when the whole history of this country shows how America has thought nothing of doing such things as propping up a tyrant like Ferdinand Marcos to get what it wants? Are we any less blind to see the myth of the avenging angel and not the reality of the returning conqueror?

But we say that that is the popular thing, to think that way.

Well, let us not complain loudly when the poor congregate this April to celebrate their own farcical people power because that is the popular thing to do. Let us not complain harshly when Erap exploits the ignorance and poverty of the poor, feeding their brains with the high of hope and illusion, in lieu of real health and prosperity, because that is the popular thing to do. Let us not complain bitterly when Erap returns like a conquering hero, ready to smite his enemies, or strike the pose of one, the way the American troops strike the pose of Steven Segal or some such action star, because that is the popular thing to do. The Americans may be popular to Filipinos, but Erap is more so. Bad habits are hard to break. Bad habits that are encouraged are even more so.

As you sow, so shall you reap. That's somewhere in the Bible, a fine and high-IQ book.

* * *

Comments are welcome at dequiros@vasia.com

Alvarez confirmation hearing off to exciting start

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

ENVIRONMENT Secretary Heherson Alvarez finally faced the Commission on Appointments yesterday and he immediately went for the jugular in his opening statement. He gave his reasons for not endorsing the appointment of Environment Management Bureau Director Peter Abaya as assistant secretary, a decision that turned Abaya into one of his major foes. Alvarez charged that because of Abaya's unauthorized insertion of a footnote to a DENR chemical control order, he was able to legitimize the importation of ozone destroying substances (ODS) at a level that alarmed world agencies for being extremely harmful to the people's health. Alvarez also insinuated that possibly P300 million had been paid in kickbacks by fly-by-night importers.

Abaya, a US-educated and articulate young man, flatly denied Alvarez's charge and maintained that ODS importations were even below the limit set by law, and that Alvarez invented this lie to destroy his career. Pressed by Sen. Serge Osmeña, however, to produce the original document that had been tampered, Alvarez couldn't produce it at the hearing. The latest battle in the CA was off to an exciting start.

* * *

Senate President Franklin Drilon averted yesterday what was bound to be a tension-wracked CA plenary session over the controversial confirmation of Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho by getting key opposition leaders to agree to defer the CA's final judgment to Feb. 27. This means a two-week moratorium for everyone, including the NGOs and the business executives who have been supporting Camacho. At yesterday's scheduled CA plenary session, Sen. Tessie Oreta was expected to invoke Sec. 20 of the Senate rules, which allows a senator to stop the plenary vote even without giving an explanation. But in a caucus that Drilon called as CA presiding officer prior to the plenary session, he asked the opposition to accept the two-week moratorium, after which it can invoke Sec. 20 or whatever it wants in the three plenary session days left before the Holy Week break late next month. (Per the chamber's rules, Sec. 20 can be invoked only on two of those three days.)

The opposition leaders agreed, doubtless because some of them felt the pressure from the Makati business community. In fact, I suspect that they welcomed the respite. Note that during the CA finance committee's hurried vote on Camacho last Monday, Sen. Blas Ople abstained, leaving only Oreta to vote no. Sen. Edgardo Angara, who was in the Senate, did not even show up to vote, clear case of a copout.

* * *

A moratorium was really in order for tension has been running high. Last Monday afternoon, it was obvious that the opposition's main concern was to thwart the intention of the finance committee chaired by Sen. Ralph Recto to favorably report out Camacho's nomination and send it to the plenary session. Toward that end, Oreta indulged in a kind of filibuster by asking all sorts of questions from Camacho, but the majority senators saw through her and pushed for immediate voting.

Meanwhile Drilon started the regular session at around 3:45 p.m., after learning from Oreta that she needed two hours more to interpellate Camacho, a clear delaying tactic. At that point, Sen. John Osmeña, chair of the Senate finance committee which is investigating Camacho's role in the Code-NGO, objected to resuming the regular session on the ground that the CA's finance committee was still having deliberations. Senate Minority Leader Nene Pimentel lamented that the senators in the CA would be marked absent from the regular session, which was unfair. The opposition asserted that per Senate rules, all committee hearings have to stop once the chamber's plenary session is called to order.

Apparently at that point the opposition had shifted tactics from delaying the voting in the CA finance committee to getting Drilon to summon the senators to the regular session, so that the committee vote on Camacho would be aborted. Drilon, however, argued that this rule applies only to Senate committees and that the CA being a constitutional body independent of the Senate, he couldn't coerce his colleagues to stop attending its session.

* * *

When Drilon persisted, the nine minority senators, this time including Angara and Ople, walked out in protest. At that moment, all eyes were riveted to Sen. John Osmeña: would he walk out too, thereby turning his back on the majority coalition to which he belongs? Osmeña, however, remained seated, his eyes on his desk and not saying anything.

Later, he admitted to this columnist that he had been asked to join the minority. In fact, during the walkout, Oreta was urging him, "*Halika ka na, sama ka na sa amin.*" But he wanted to remain faithful to his friend Drilon.

Osmeña explained that he has nothing against the NGOs, for in fact his maternal grandmother, Eulalia Renner, was an NGO leader for 20 years in Cebu, running its puericulture center and maternity clinic. But he said his beef was with the "unelected and unelectable" groups who "masquerade their thirst for power and profit." I queried him whether his disdain for "civil society" stems from the fact that it was responsible in large part for the ouster of Joseph Estrada from the presidency, and he pointed out that long before Erap he had already taken issue with them on many things, e.g., agrarian reform and the bases issue. Osmeña stressed that he had nothing against President Macapagal, but sources close to him point out that he has a big *tampo* after GMA sat down for lunch with labor leader Democrito Mendoza, whom Osmeña considers a political enemy in Cebu.

Love, lust and an epilogue

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

RECENTLY, a friend told me about the book he was currently reading. Its central thesis, he said, is that modern man or homo sapiens evolved from a breed of male primates who developed "human" traits and intelligence out of a desire to mate with the best females.

Over time, said the author, success in the courtship competition for the most desirable females no longer rested on such mundane qualities as strength, physique and survival skills. The female primates seemed to look more and more for "intangible" qualities. In response, a few males began to develop traits like humor, gentleness, maybe even irony that the females seemed to prefer. And from the gene pool of this new elite of primate society later evolved the progenitors of human beings.

"I knew it, I knew that in the end it all boils down to sex!" I said laughing. Our other friends, though, were more skeptical, refusing to believe that human nature, what sets us apart from the rest of the animal kingdom, is basically rooted in lust.

But then, if you think about it, aren't human beings the only creatures who feel lust? What male mammals feel toward female mammals is not, strictly speaking, lust. It is merely sexual arousal in response to pheromones and other signals that a dog, for instance, might be in search of when he goes sniffing the genitals of any bitch who passes by.

Then again, this might well describe the reaction of teenage boys at the sight of the latest Assunta de Rossi calendar—not lust, but sexual instinct. As someone once said (facetiously, I hope), don't all teenage boys walk around with a perpetual erection?

* * *

BUT to return to lust. What differentiates it from instinct is that it is directed toward a specific object of affection and desire. When a male primate began to scope out a particular female and began to harbor thoughts of rolling on the jungle floor with her, that was when lust was born. And when the female began to notice this one male who seemed to single her out for attention, and she decided she would fall for him only if he could tell her a joke and bring her a banana, that was when romance was born.

Thus lust and romance have been wedded and twinned.

The history of courtship, marriage and relations between the sexes is sadly marked by countless instances when one or both of the partners confused lust with romance and the other way around.

"Trust me, I would never do anything to hurt you," a boy tells his girl. Translation: "C'mon, let's get on with it!" "I want to be with you always and be the mother of your children," she tells him breathlessly. Translation: "At last, someone who will support me in a style I'm not accustomed to and who will contribute good genes for our picture-perfect children." He has his heart on instant gratification mode. She has her eyes on the long haul. Heartbreak is just around the corner.

The trick to negotiating the rocky path toward couple-dom is knowing how to read the map and the signs. Ask yourself: Is my walking partner good only for a pleasant stroll, or will he (or she) stay beside me through rough patches and avalanches? The answer should set the mood for the rest of the way, and the expectations at the end of the journey.

* * *

SOME of you might still remember the story of Lucy Bigornia, an advertising executive who wrote a tell-all book about her separation from her husband. Written in the tongue-in-cheek style of the copywriter, it's still a book filled with pain and anguish that no amount of breezy writing could disguise.

She called it "Now the Bed's All Mine!" yet another attempt to put a positive spin to her situation. Briefly, it's of a marriage that, after 20 plus years and a son and grandchild, shatters when Lucy finds out that for most of their marriage, her lawyer-husband had been cheating on her with both one-nighters and long-term affairs.

Well, there's an epilogue to this story and it's provided by Lucy's friend and colleague Grace Chong. Grace recently came out with a book of essays after her retirement from advertising. One chapter of "Gifts of Grace" is about Lucy, and I didn't know whether to laugh or cry after reading it.

* * *

SOME time after "Now the Bed's All Mine" came out, Grace invited Lucy on an out-of-town trip. Grace and her husband nearly toppled over with shock when they saw who was driving Lucy's car. It was the prodigal husband, and while he sought to mend the strained friendship with the Chongs with banter, Lucy remained quiet all throughout dinner.

Later that night, while making Lucy's bed, Grace popped the question. "He's lost his job, his home, his family. He's lost everything," Lucy said of the man who had just barely a year before plunged her into living hell. But she said it without bitterness or rancor. "Nothing I said in the book was untrue," Lucy replied when asked what her husband told her about the public airing of his very dirty linen.

Eventually, the husband left for the United States in an attempt to restart his stalled life. Four months after, Lucy left, too, to join her husband. As Grace noted, now Lucy's sharing her bed again. My Valentine's wish for them is that this time, no ghosts or third parties crowd them in this new bed they made and now lie on.

Set free the seeds (2): A sovereignty issue

HUMAN FACE

Ma. Ceres P. Doyo

WHILE militants are invoking sovereignty in protesting the presence of US forces in Mindanao, sovereignty could very well be the cry in defending our indigenous life forms, plant biodiversity in particular, from foreign intrusion and imposition of schemes disguised as "plant variety protection."

The woes of Mang Imong and farmers, which I wrote about last week, were not conjured. They could happen. They have in fact happened in some places: farmers losing their right to ancestral knowledge that had been stolen and claimed by profiteers; farmers being banned from propagating and sharing that knowledge with communities.

While the world is outraged by terrorism, there is another cause for outrage. That is biopiracy. In India, farmers marched to protest and denounce the US patent on Indian basmati rice. Poor countries are seeking legal recourse for the theft of their indigenous medicinal knowledge. Even scientists tasked to make seeds public find out to their dismay that these seeds have been privatized by Australian companies.

Corporate greed is creeping. It comes in the form of patent schemes that would embrace life forms—human genes, seeds, rare plant species. This may all sound so technical to us and little do we know that these schemes are woven into the world trading system.

So, is Senate Bill 1865 (the Philippine Plant Variety Protection Act of 2001), co-authored by Senators Manuel Villar, Juan Flavier and Sergio Osmeña III, the answer? Are revisions needed? What should it include in order that our farmers and indigenous groups will be protected? I mentioned some last week.

In pushing for the bill as it is, might its authors be allowing themselves to be pushed into jumping onto the intellectual property rights (IPR) bandwagon fueled by the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) Uruguay Round? Who are its lobbyists? Definitely not Mang Imong. What are their motives?

The Union for Protection of New Varieties of Plants (UPOV) brings together 50 countries purportedly to protect the interests of plant breeders. It dates back to the 1960s but never had a broad following outside of industrialized countries. Now things are changing fast. Developing nations are being bamboozled into joining the union, or else.

Gaia/Grain Publications tackles issues related to the conflict between global trade and biodiversity. The group's series on this issue is very enlightening.

There is increasing pressure to extend IPR legislation to biodiversity in developing countries such as ours. The pressure could be being placed on the United States' Super 301 "Watch List" of free trade offenders. It could also come from the trade ministries responsible for implementing the agreements signed at the GATT Uruguay Round. Poor countries are made to believe that patents and other forms of IPR are the key to attracting investment in biotechnology which is supposed to boost their economy and food security.

But groups and countries opposed to the above IPR campaign say the motive is actually increased profits for transnational corporations.

It is in this context that the imposition of plant variety rights—as a form of IPR—should be seen. Says Gaia/Grain: "Often touted as a 'soft' kind of patent regime, plant variety protection laws are just as threatening as industrial patents on biodiversity, and also represent an attack on the rights of farming and other communities at the local level."

Here's more. The World Trade Organization's (WTO) agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPs) requires developing countries to provide either patent or *sui generis* (unique) protection for the ownership of plant varieties by 2000 which was over a year ago. Deadline for least developed countries is 2005. Gaia/Grain says that UPOV is selling itself as the ready-made solution for compliance with TRIPs. After the 1991 Act of the UPOV Convention came to be, poor countries felt the heat. But this act grants very strong monopoly rights to breeders with almost nothing going back to farmers. This UPOV thing has been there since 1961, but so far only 50 countries have signed up, 35 of which are industrialized. The 15 are mostly in Africa and Latin America. In Asia, only China, Japan and South Korea have joined.

The UPOV line that it would prevent biopiracy would not necessarily apply to poor countries. Laws meant to benefit the rich will not apply to the poor. Anti-UPOV groups have listed reasons why countries should say no to UPOV, among them:

1. UPOV denies farmers' rights both in the narrow and the wide sense. The right to freely save seeds from the harvest is curtailed. UPOV does not recognize or support communities' inherent rights to biodiversity and to innovate.
2. Companies from rich countries (North) will take over national breeding systems in poor countries (South). Northern companies will get ownership of the South's biodiversity with no obligation to share the benefits. The lion's share of benefits will flow to the North.
3. UPOV criteria for protection will exacerbate erosion of biodiversity.
4. Privatization of genetic resources affects research negatively.
5. Moves to keep biodiversity under negotiated access systems will be undermined. PVP laws will grant private ownership of resources that fall under national and community sovereignty.
6. Joining UPOV means accepting a questionable system that supports the rights of industrial breeders and disregards farmers and communities.

Set free the seeds. Uphold farmers' rights. Exterminate biopirates. Preserve and protect indigenous knowledge. More food for the world.

Almost a love story (1)

YOUNGBLOOD

SanRio

*We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—**Ed.***

THIS one is a little different: We met face to face before we became text friends. He was part of the audit team which evaluated our organization. In the three days he was with us, I did not entertain any ideas of "that nature," although some of my colleagues were swooning over his good looks, his height, his intelligence. I was too busy complying with the audit requirements to notice.

Before the team left, he gave me his cell phone number. Out of courtesy, I texted him our thanks for making the audit process not as nerve-wracking as we had expected it to be.

He replied as soon as he got home from the airport, and I thought that was the end of it. I was surprised in the following weeks when he continued to send messages, usually saying "GUD AM" with Bible quotes and nice graphics—all light and friendly. Later, he sent messages in the afternoons, mostly about friendship, like: "I live by faith and not by sight, so even if I don t see you, I know you are the same—a friend worth keeping 'til the end." Another ran like this: "Care is the main ingredient that keeps true friends together despite distance and time. Care sustains affection. Since I don't see you, always let my care be with you."

My friends often complain that I have a low IQ when it comes to matters of the heart. And true to form, I treated everything as a joke and sent him a joke about Christmas gifts. He replied with a cryptic "I got the message and will comply."

Well, I thought, what do you expect from forwarded messages? Two months after we started texting, I expressed doubts that our friendship could be sustained and he wrote something about the "essence of friendship not being in the physical presence but in trusting and believing in someone."

Since I would get his reply in a matter of minutes, I concluded that his unit must have an unlimited capacity for storing messages, unlike mine which could store a maximum of 20 messages only. He always had a ready answer. Knowing his position in his organization and the nature of his job, I couldn't imagine him having the time or patience to create his own messages.

It was about this time that I started to look forward to his messages. Where before I would often leave my phone at home or inside my drawer when I left my office, now I never left without it. If it was in silent mode, I'd take a peek at it every 15 minutes or so.

His messages were becoming sweeter. At noon, he'd send a kiss being blown to greet me "GUD PM," or messages that ended with "love ka ng sender." On Christmas Day, he sent a lot of messages that despite our noisy family celebration, I could still read immediately since my phone has a distinctive ring tone. On New Year's Eve, I got his message at 00:25 a.m. although as late as noontime of Jan. 1, I was still receiving messages sent as early as 8 p.m. the previous day. The gods of mobile phones must have been smiling at me that time.

I got another New Year's greeting in the morning of Jan. 1 together with an advanced Happy Valentine's greeting. Then, there was silence for three days.

I got worried. Was he too ill to move even a finger? Had his phone been stolen? Worse, did he make a New Year's resolution to erase me from his life?

On the fourth day of silence, I sent him a message about the permanence of friendship. He sent back a quotation from the Bible.

From the small stock of messages in my outbox, I sent him a graphic of a crying face saying, "Naluha ako coz u remember me." In a few minutes, this came in: "If time slips away and you don't hear a word from me, always remember that our bond is more than just words, it is a feeling of togetherness in our hearts (",)".

Okay, I get the message; at least it lasted for four months. (Will it take that long to mend a broken heart ?)

Early last year, I participated in an online training which saw the participants meeting face to face on the sixth week. One of the conclusions reached at the end of the training sums up the point of this very familiar story: "For the virtual to happen, first you have to be in touch with what is real."

SanRio, 28, works at a state college in the Visayas.

Almost a love story (2)

Butterfly

HE was a senior high school student and a certified playboy, living a life as carefree as can be and enjoying the attention he was getting from the opposite sex. A campus heartthrob, he never thought that somebody out there could hold his interest long enough, much less make him fall in love. But the moment he saw her in a photograph, he simply had to meet her.

She was a junior, contented with her peaceful existence, happy to belong to the small circle of friends she had. Everything was just so right. She was busy with schoolwork and nothing else mattered. Indeed she was grateful that there were no distractions—at least none from the opposite sex. She wasn't interested in meeting someone, getting to know that someone and being involved with that someone. Until...

"Thank you for having found the pictures," she told him at their first meeting. And she thought that was the end of it.

But he wasted no time getting to know her. He gave her a rose. She placed it in between the pages of an old book.

He spent time with her and her friends, walked with her from school and dropped by her house on weekends. She was probably too dense to notice anything unusual in all this. For her, he was just being so amiable—or was it because of his reputation that she pretended that there was nothing special in everything he did? Nevertheless, she enjoyed his company.

Finally, he got the courage to tell her that he was in love with her. She said she was surprised. How could he have fallen in love so soon?

"You've got to earn her trust first," advised his friends.

"She's not yet ready for the kind of relationship you're offering," her friends told him. "Maybe you're just smitten for now, but who knows what will happen in the long run?"

Then they went to college, to different schools this time. He continued pursuing her even if he could see her only during holidays. Whether he was really in love, only he knew.

She thought somebody had won his affection when she saw less and less of him. Maybe that someone was ready to love him wholeheartedly. They were not seeing each other for long periods of time after all.

Still there was sadness in her. Maybe it was for the best. There was too little chance for her love to develop. It would have been unfair to make him wait despite the uncertainty. She was glad she didn't take advantage of him during those times when he pledged undying love.

And then he got someone pregnant. It confirmed what was on her mind all along. He was gone forever.

Was she hurt? Did she feel cheated? No. He didn't keep his promise to wait for her. But then she never gave him any assurance that she would try to love him back. She was happy he met his true love now.

It was an experience she would never forget. She felt no bitterness unlike many others whose love affair had gone sour. Maybe because hers was an altogether different story. And who said an intended love affair cannot turn into friendship instead?

She was thankful for the love he felt for her one time. Perhaps, she could have learned to love him in return if only they had some more time. There could have been a love affair but there never was one. And that was their story.

Butterfly, 23, says the memories linger to this day, eight years later.

Better ways of spending $1 million

LETTERS

IT is with incredulity and great resentment that I write my comments about the recent $1-million splurge by President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo. I don't normally react to news about public spending because I trust that the lawmakers and the more responsible and ethical members of civil society are doing their patriotic duty to ensure that the country's money reaches Joe Public. However, as a recent *balikbayan* from Canada who spent three weeks in my homeland and having seen the traffic, garbage, poverty, public rest rooms, education and unemployment, I join many Filipinos in their indignation over this ludicrous "publicity campaign."

Why is it important to enhance the country's image abroad for "pride and prestige" when the domestic picture remains very bleak, the benchmark T-bill is at its 15-year low, rumors of destabilization have been looming for months, the Burnhams are still in the clutches of the Abu Sayyaf, the number of homeless has risen to approximately 5 million, 34.1 percent of Filipino households live below the poverty line and an unstable electric supply recently caused a Luzon-wide blackout? This crisis management agency would be better engaged trying to stop the nation from total collapse.

If Burson-Marsteller is truly the reputable media and communication firm that it is reputed to be, why didn't we see any announcement or big press release of the President's visit in Toronto? Other than a word from my mother who is actively involved in the local Kalayaan Association, I have not heard about any events relating to Ms Macapagal's stopover in Canada or the fund-raising activity (and its beneficiary) allegedly supported by the Canadian International Development Agency. It is interesting to note that the Cida website does not have any information about this alliance. And I am not surprised that the London Times carried the story about Tony Blair's offer to share Scotland Yard's expertise not in the headlines but at the bottom of the "War On Terror" section of the paper.

How far did this publicity gimmick take the Philippine President in New York when the Americans were focused on Enron, the terrorists and their nation's recession recovery? Shouldn't Ms Macapagal learn from the masters and put domestic concerns before global image?

How can the Philippines become an attractive location for foreign investors and tourists if basic services such as clean rest rooms (with paper) are not provided in public areas, including (and most especially) tourist attractions? Who can explain why the country's tourism facilities like the National Museum close at 4:30 p.m. and do not have suggestion boxes for visitors? Why is Tourism Secretary Richard Gordon so surprised that tourists flock to Thailand and Vietnam when Manila's international airport doesn't even have decent washrooms? That's the million-dollar question!

Here then are some suggestions for spending a million dollars: buy over a million rolls of bathroom tissue; or build 300 homes for the homeless; or buy 1.6 million meals for the hungry; or build 150 public school classrooms; or clean Metro Manila's streets and sewers; or upgrade the electric supply to provide 24-hour power.

If for some strange reason, this $1 million must absolutely be spent outside the country, it should be donated to hundreds of causes related to Sept. 11 or to the recent victims of the volcanic disaster in Congo, or to numerous United Nations agencies.—**CHITO LIBRODO, chito_ca@yahoo.com**

Old dogs, new tricks

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

WE'D planned on only one dog and as we looked at the dachshund pups at the kennel, we knew it had to be the tiny brown one with bright engaging eyes. But as we closed the deal on Sasha, a black long-haired dachshund came out of nowhere. He wasn't quite as lively as the female but terribly affectionate. "Take me too," he almost seemed to be saying. That was how we ended up with Sasha and Bates.

That was more than 12 years ago, and we've had more than a fair share of delight, amusement, mirth and heartache with the two. Born only a few days apart, the two have been inseparable, despite or maybe because they had such diametrically opposite personalities.

Bates loved visitors, rushing out to greet them and eagerly waiting for compliments: "*Guapo* dog," which he was. Sasha, it turned out, was actually quite shy with strangers, content with peeping from behind the door when there were visitors.

Among family and friends though, Sasha was an alpha dog. The first time we let her out into the garden she dashed off in a flash eager to explore new grounds, while Bates stayed behind, following only with some coaxing. It was going to be that way for the next 12 years: Sasha leading, Bates following.

I was never able to train Sasha. She knew what "sit" and "stay" and "shake hands" were but she'd do as she pleased, not because humans commanded her. Each day she had her own agenda—which plants to dig up, which cat to gossip with, which new furniture to chew on.

Sasha was a whiner, complaining when it was too hot, or too cold, too quiet or too noisy (she hated fireworks). She was obsessed with time too: every day at 6 a.m. (7 a.m. on colder days) she'd whine to be let out into the garden. Every day, too, at 9 p.m., she'd holler to be let into the house for the night.

Bates was your typical "good dog," who followed you everywhere, and kneeled, sat or rolled over when commanded. He was easy to handle, even when getting injections. The only time he made trouble was when it was time for a bath and all he'd do was make himself scarce. Sasha was, again, the opposite—once she sensed it was time for a bath, she'd jump into the tub, waiting.

Bates never complained so it was hard to tell if he was sick. Last year I sensed he was responding rather slowly, or not at all, when I called. Then one day I realized he'd gone deaf, and that he had evolved his own way of "hearing." He'd come running from the garden when we opened the house door because he could feel the vibrations. I quickly picked up and expanded the hand signals that he'd learned before going deaf: "come" was an old one but now he learned to respond to visual commands for "sit," "shake," "lie down," even "be quiet" (finger to the mouth with the shhh sign).

Last year, Sasha developed a tumor. We had it surgically removed and the week she was away Bates was miserable. When she came home, we had a grand reunion, almost as if she knew she had a new lease on life. She became more affectionate, sometimes coming up and asking to be carried. She'd spend even more time now in the garden, but instead of poking around, doing something all the time as she used to, she seemed to take more time just sitting in the sun and enjoying life.

In December though, she began to lose weight rapidly. I knew it had something to do with the cancer. But life continued. Just as Bates had adjusted to his deafness, Sasha seemed almost oblivious to her illness, carrying on with her daily routines in the garden.

Amid the endless trips in and out of the vet hospital, I saw another side to Sasha. No more whining this time. There were times we thought she would go within a few hours but then she'd shape up again, stumbling her way into the garden, nibbling on her dog food, although each time she was eating less. Meticulously clean, she always refused to "do it" except out in the garden, so as she became weaker, I had to carry her out every few hours for toilet duty, and then we'd stay on because I knew she always loved the feel of grass.

Bates stayed close by her side day and night, running around trying to be useful when I had to fix up medication for Sasha, or clean her up. Well, he was around most of the time, except when it was chow time and then he'd go off, leaving Sasha behind, or when I'd sit out in the porch with my *cerveza negra* and he'd come up, nudging me for a sip. Love has its limits.

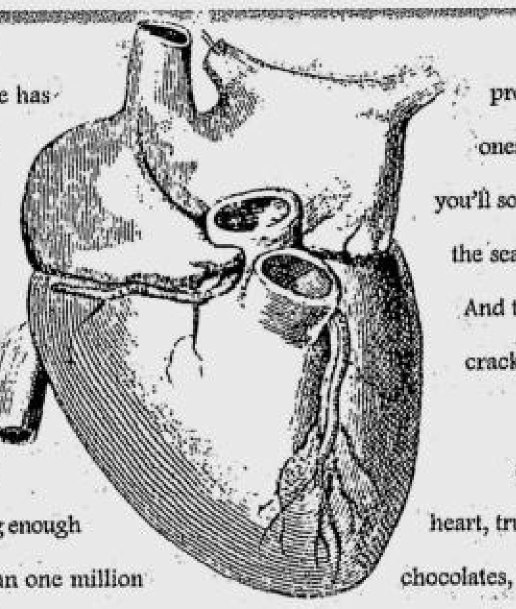
As Sasha's condition worsened, I'd spend more time with her and Bates, deep into the night. I'd ask, like I used to do when they were pups, "Who's my favorite dog?" and Sasha's tail would go thump, thump, thump, with deaf Bates following maybe because he thought it'd get him some beer. I suspected Sasha was trying extra hard, dogs having learned to pick up cues from humans, to trick me into thinking she was feeling better, but as the days passed, the wagging became less spirited, and I'd assure her, rubbing her behind her ears, that it was all right for her to go.

I always explain to my students that human "intelligence" revolves around our well-developed cortex, that part of the brain that allows us to "think," to reflect, to plan. But it's that "intelligence," too, that allows us to anticipate pain and misery, to fear the unknown, the future. You don't have that with dogs, which is why, contrary to the cliché, old dogs do learn new tricks and sometimes end up teaching us humans a thing or two about life.

Our mornings are now a bit more sedate as I walk with Bates. He hesitates when we get to a gate leading to a little cove behind the house. Sasha would have sprinted through the minute the gate opened and Bates would have followed. In time, I think Bates will come to accept—and I tell him he has to, so I can, as well—that Sasha now has her own garden.

* * *

Comments are welcome at miguel@pinoy kasi.com



No Valentine?

Don't worry.
Medically-speaking there is no such thing as a broken heart.

As far as we know, no scientific evidence has been found linking the receipt of a card in the middle of February with a healthy heart. We don't want to sound unromantic, but this symbol of romantic love, is really just a muscle. And it's one of the strongest ones in your body. In a child it's the size of a fist, and doubles in size in an adult. It will beat 2.5 billion times in an average lifetime, pumping enough blood to fill 3 super tankers; that's more than one million gallons of the red stuff. As long as you look after it that is.

There are, however, several other factors to consider. First of all, there is diet. A diet rich in saturated fats and high in salt — probably much like the one you enjoy most — is far more of a problem than whether or not someone decided to pop a little 'I love you' note in the post or not. They probably forgot and it will arrive tomorrow anyway. Or they were going to drop by. Maybe they were planning to give you a call but couldn't get through — perhaps because the network was busy or something. It is, after all, Valentine's day and everyone is trying to call.

Another important factor is exercise. Many advise a brisk walk of at least 30 minutes duration three or more times a week to raise your heart rate in a controlled, tolerable way. What's more, it's amazing how a good stroll simply takes your mind off any problems you may be having. Emotional ones for instance. After the first few minutes you'll soon realize there are plenty more fish in the sea and that everything is all for the best. And that love at first sight isn't really all it's cracked up to be.

So when you feel a peculiar pang in your heart, true relief might not be found in a box of chocolates, but in a 100mg tablet of Bayer Aspirin. Medical studies have proven that an aspirin a day reduces the chances of having strokes and heart attacks. Aspirin keeps the platelets in your blood from clotting, keeping your arteries clear and preventing any clogging that can result in a fatal heart attack.

The next time you feel an odd sensation in the middle of your chest, think twice before you blame it on Cupid's arrows. It may be something more serious than a missing Valentine's card or a really bad date. It might be something you need to tell your doctor about, instead of your favourite radio DJ.

In the end, Valentine's Day may just be a way for vendors to make a tidy profit. Perfect love stories are really only found in movies and romance novels. But one thing's for sure. A healthy heart will always keep on beating strongly no matter how many times it breaks.

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2002 has been declared "National Year of the Heart"

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The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

Torture scenes shown in trial

THE HAGUE—UN prosecutors Wednesday screened graphic film of gaunt prisoners in Bosnian camps at the start of the second day of the trial of Slobodan Milosevic, accused of orchestrating a decade of murder and oppression in the Balkans in an unbridled drive for personal power.

The former Yugoslav president is the first head of state to be called to justice before an international tribunal. His case is the most prominent in international law since a military tribunal tried the Nazi leaders after World War II.

With the prosecution's opening statement lasting longer than expected, it was unclear whether Milosevic would have a chance to begin his response before the end of the day.

Describing crimes in Bosnia, for which Milosevic had been charged with the genocide of thousands of Muslims at Srebrenica, prosecutors showed video footage of rail-thin and frightened internees at the Trnopolje prison camp in 1992.

At the Trnopolje, Omarska and Keraterm detention centers of eastern Bosnia, thousands of detainees were starved, beaten, sexually assaulted and tortured. Many were murdered and their bodies hauled off to be buried in mass graves, prosecutors say.

The pictures of the camps were what aroused international attention to the Balkan horrors that led to the establishment of the Yugoslav war crimes tribunal in 1993.

The prosecutors say the camps were part of a campaign to rid large portions of Croatia, Bosnia and Kosovo of non-Serb populations and create a "greater" Serb state.

Milosevic doesn't recognize the authority of the court and plans to defend himself before the three-member panel of judges. His lawyers say he will seek to call high ranking Western officials to testify, including the former US President Bill Clinton, and British Prime Minister Tony Blair.

Prosecutors spent Tuesday's six-hour hearings laying the groundwork for their case, attempting to link Milosevic to thousands of murders and the expulsion of nearly a million people from the three Balkan states.

Milosevic, 60, faces a total of 66 counts of genocide and other war crimes during a decade of strife in the republics that once made up Yugoslavia. Each count carries a maximum sentence of life in prison. UN tribunals don't have a death penalty. Milosevic's legal advisers say he will argue that he is not a war criminal but a leader who sought unity and peace in his country.

During the trial, which is expected to last more than two years, prosecutors will call up to 350 witnesses to prove his guilt. By questioning his close political and military associates, they hope to link him to a policy of brutal ethnic violence carried out by Serb forces between 1991 and 1999.

Among the prosecution witnesses are Kosovo Albanian leader Ibrahim Rugova and dozens of survivors of the Serb military assaults.

Millions of people across the Balkans watched the opening day on television.

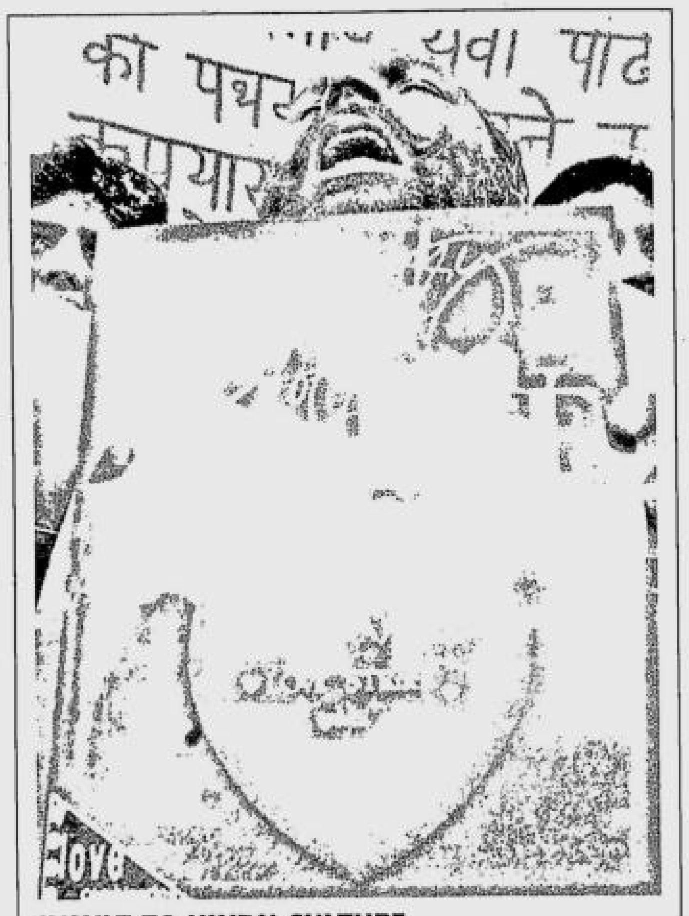
Presenting a summary of a case that took years to prepare, chief prosecutor Carla del Ponte said Milosevic had been consumed by his thirst for power and had even manipulated and used his own people to achieve his "evil" goals.

The trial's opening phase, which may last four months, will focus on murder charges of hundreds of Kosovo Albanians by Serbian security forces and the expulsion of some 800,000 people from their homes in 1998-99.

"Some of the incidents reveal an almost medieval savagery and a calculated cruelty that went far beyond the bounds of legitimate warfare," she said in a 30-minute opening statement.

Using charts, maps and archive video clips, deputy prosecutor Nice recapped Milosevic's rise to power in the late 1980 and early 1990s. The ousted leader, he said, manipulated an upsurge of Serb nationalism "to get as much as he could get away with and as much as he could keep."

Milosevic's followers denounced the hearings as politically motivated and said excerpts of the former president speaking at protest rallies had been taken out of context. **AP**



INSULT TO HINDU CULTURE

Activists of the Shiv Sena (Army of Hindu god Shiva) a right-wing group, shout during a protest against Valentine's Day celebrations in New Delhi. The activists burnt greeting cards that mark the occasion, saying it was an insult to the country's Hindu culture. REUTERS

3 Palestine cops, civilian killed in Israeli raid

BEIT HANOUN, Gaza Strip—Israeli troops raided three Palestinian towns and a refugee camp Wednesday in the most extensive military operation in the Gaza Strip in 16 months of fighting, launched in reprisal for Palestinian rocket fire on Israel. Three Palestinian policemen and a civilian were killed.

Tanks withdrew from two towns and the refugee camp after several hours, but troops set up positions in the third town, Beit Hanoun, pitching tents in a girls' high school and in the town square. In house-to-house searches, troops arrested at least 27 suspect Islamic militants.

After daybreak, a fierce battle erupted between Palestinian gunmen and Israeli troops firing from tank-mounted machine guns. Several dozen Palestinian youngsters who had been throwing stones at the tanks were in the line of fire and ran for cover, screaming in panic, when the shooting began. One youngster was wounded in the leg.

Israeli Cabinet Minister Ephraim Sneh said soldiers would remain in Palestinian-controlled areas of Gaza for days, until rocket factories had been found, and that the military would carry out more large-scale, long-term raids if rocket fire persisted. "This is a threat we cannot tolerate," Sneh, an ex-general, told Israel Army Radio.

The Israeli incursions came in response to the firing of two homemade rockets by the Islamic militant group Hamas at southern Israel on Sunday. The rockets, called Qassam-2, landed in open fields and caused no injuries. However, Israel is concerned that the Qassam-2, which has a range of 5-8 km and is very inaccurate, can reach Israeli population centers.

Palestinian officials warned that the Israeli incursions would lead to further escalation. "The United States must put an end to this Israeli policy," said Nabil Abu Rdeneh, an adviser to Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat. **AP**

Driver recounts pleas for air, water during jail transfer

MAZAR-E-SHARIF, Afghanistan—Captured Taliban fighters banged on the walls of a sealed cargo container and begged desperately for water and fresh air during a voyage to prison that some did not survive.

The account, given by a truck driver who claims anti-Taliban fighters forced him to transport the prisoners, bolsters allegations of an ordeal that claimed lives and left others delirious as captives were overwhelmed by heat and lack of air.

"They were yelling, 'Please, brother, please open the door. We are dying,'" said the driver, who spoke on condition of anonymity for fear of reprisals from the US-backed fighters who defeated the Taliban.

The conditions during the November convoys are part of wider scrutiny into prisoner treatment that stretches from Afghanistan to the US detention facility in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

The International Committee of the Red Cross is among the groups conducting inquiries into the reports of suffocation deaths en route to the prison in Shibergan—a more than two-hour journey by road west of Mazar-e-Sharif. But the prisoners also spent hours in the containers before leaving the city, the driver said.

The ICRC spokesperson in Geneva, Eros Bosisio, noted the group's policy of neutrality did not allow it to release details of its probes. "We would normally raise our concerns with the parties involved," he said.

UN investigators are also looking into the reports. But UN officials in Mazer-e-Sharif declined to discuss preliminary findings because of the possible repercussions on the fragile coalition of militias in northern Afghanistan.

The UN high commissioner for human rights, Mary Robinson, may visit Afghanistan next month and talks about prison transfers could be on her agenda. **AP**

WORLDBRIEFS

US Air force plane crashes

KANDAHAR—A US Air Force transport plane crashed in a remote region of Afghanistan, injuring all eight crew members but none of them critically, US officials said Wednesday. Seven of those injured in the crash Tuesday evening of the MC-130P were able to walk and "none of the injuries were considered life threatening," said Maj. Brad Lowell, a spokesperson for US Central Command that oversees the campaign in Afghanistan. Speaking by telephone from the command's headquarters at MacDill Air Force Base, Florida, Lowell said the injured were taken to a medical facility in the region around Afghanistan, although he would not specify where. The plane was not carrying any other personnel, Lowell said. The cause of the crash was not known, although it did not appear to be the result of hostile fire, US Central Command said. **AP**

Unconditional talks

WASHINGTON—US President George W. Bush will offer unconditional talks to North Korea during his trip to Asia next week, according to Secretary of State Colin Powell. "We hope the North Koreans will take us up on it," Powell told the Senate budget committee Tuesday. "He will talk about the hope he has for North Korea that some day the North Korean people will enjoy the kind of life that South Koreans have," Powell said in previewing Bush's trip to China, Japan and South Korea. Bush bracketed North Korea with Iran and Iraq in an "axis of evil" in his State of the Union speech last month. But Powell said "he has no plan on his desk right now to begin a war with any nation." **AP**

Search resumes for 117 passengers

KHORRAMABAD, Iran—The search resumed Wednesday for 117 people believed dead after a plane crashed in the rugged snow-covered mountains of western Iran, a regional official told state television. The operation was halted Tuesday night because of darkness and bad weather, the television quoted Behrouz Goudarzy, deputy governor general of Lorestan province, as saying. He said helicopters are being brought to the area because the rocky terrain made it difficult to reach the crash site by land. Iranian radio and television reported Wednesday that 117 people were aboard the Tu-154, a Russian-made Tupolev operated by state-owned Iran Air Tours, when it crashed at 7:55 a.m. Tuesday outside Khorramabad, about 375 km southwest of the capital. **AP**

Massive die-off

MEXICO CITY—A massive die-off of monarch butterflies in their winter nesting grounds has deepened the mystery surrounding their numbers, after researchers suggested a death toll twice as high as the previous estimate of the entire population. "This data is telling us we have to go back to square one" in estimating just how many monarchs make the trip, said Lincoln Brower, a zoologist who may be the foremost expert on the 4,800-km migration to Mexico. "We may be off by a factor of five to 10." The monarchs' amazing migration has inspired many in the United States, Canada and Mexico. Although a single butterfly can spend its entire life in either the United States or Mexico, its children and grandchildren will know to migrate north or south. Researchers are still trying to unravel the mystery, following the lead of a motorcycle-riding American expatriate who stumbled on a trail of dead butterflies to become the first outsider to discover the nesting sites in January 1975. **AP**

Bloodier civil war

IN THE MOUNTAINS OF NORTHWEST COLOMBIA—Wearing designer clothing along with a revolver and a hunting knife, the reputed leader of a feared paramilitary army is forecasting a bloodier chapter in Colombia's civil war. **AP**

15 Taliban leaders willing to give up

KABUL—About 15 Taliban leaders, who may include former Cabinet ministers, are in talks about turning themselves in, an Afghan official said Tuesday. They could provide key information in the hunt for fugitive Taliban leader Mullah Mohammed Omar and terror chief Osama bin Laden.

The Taliban figures are negotiating indirectly with representatives of Gul Agha, governor of southern Kandahar province, which was the Islamic movement's stronghold before the US-led war, said the governor's spokesperson, Khalid Pashtun. He said the surrender "might take a week or two or three or four."

Pashtun refused to identify the Taliban leaders but said "it is possible" some were Cabinet ministers.

Asked whether they would be turned over to US forces if they surrendered, Pashtun said: "They are just talking with us . . . We haven't reached that level yet."

The most senior Taliban official known to be in custody is former Foreign Minister Mullah Wakil Ahmed Muttawakil, who surrendered Friday. He was being questioned at Kandahar's US-commandeered airbase; Afghan authorities want him put on trial for crimes committed during the hard line regime's five years in power **AP**

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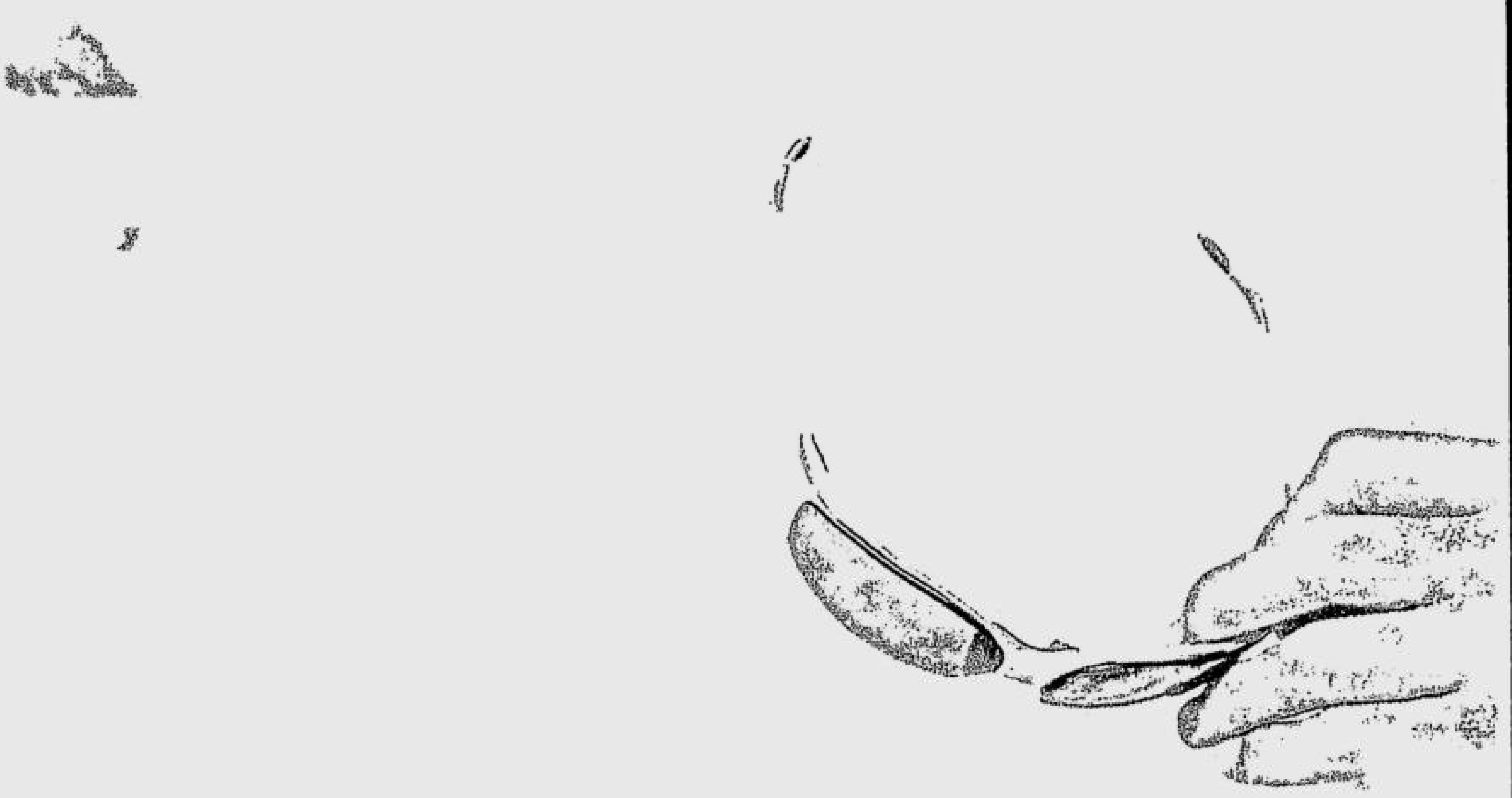

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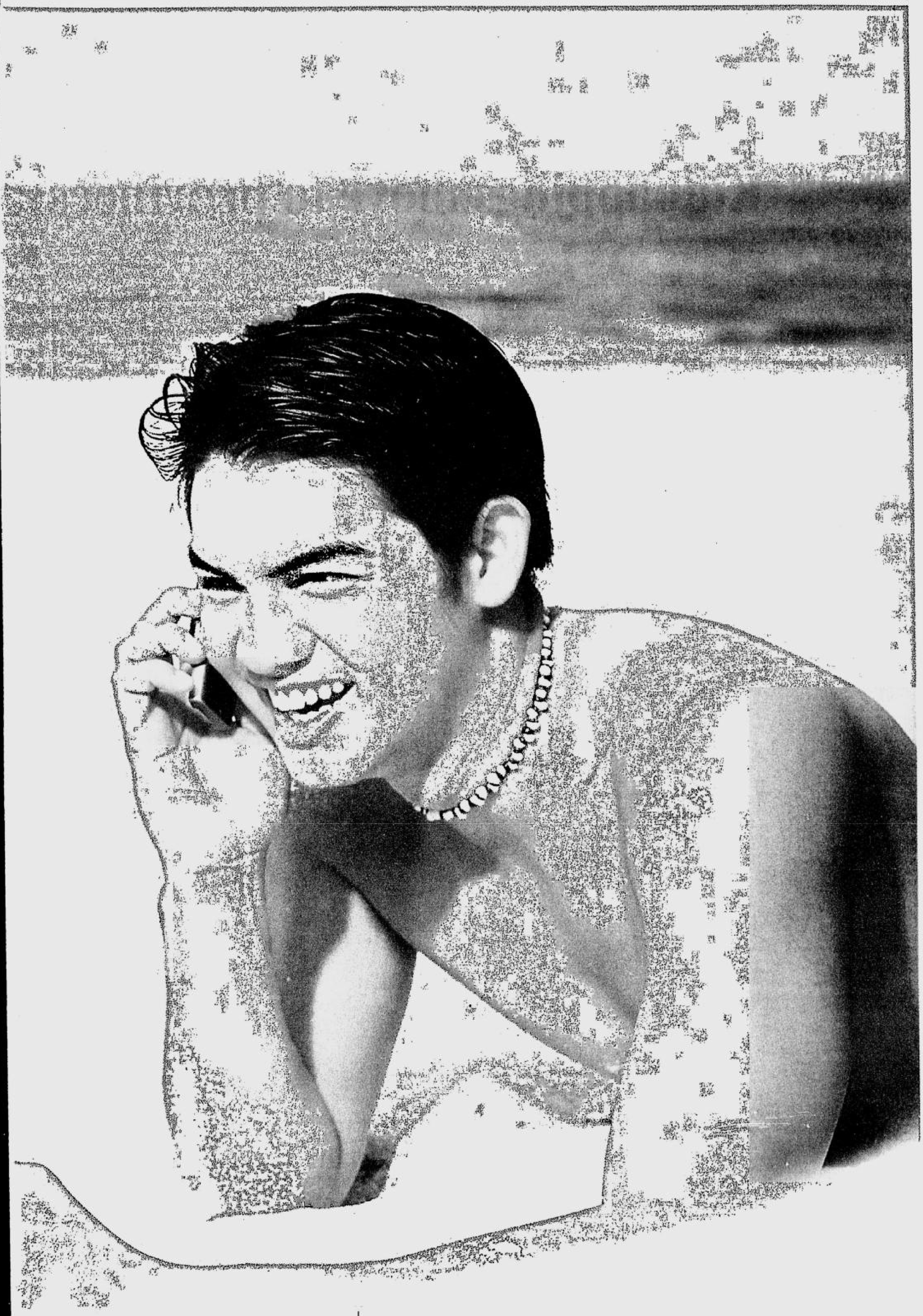

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GMA agrees to meet with Negros group on peace pact

By Carla P. Gomez
PDI Visayas Bureau

BACOLOD CITY—President Macapagal-Arroyo will meet with members of the Peace Advocates of Negros (PAN) to listen to their concerns on the peace pact entered into by the government and the Rebolusyonaryong Partido ng Manggagawa-Pilipinas (RPM-P).

Bacolod Bishop Vicente Navarra said the meeting between the President and the PAN will be held before the end of the month.

He said Ms Macapagal agreed to meet with PAN members after he went to Malacañang on Monday morning to raise to the President the concerns of the peace advocates on the peace agreement signed during the Estrada administration.

Ms Macapagal, he added, assured him that the peace agreement would not be implemented until she has met with the PAN members.

The PAN endorsed on Saturday a proposed supplementary agreement that sought to "correct" nine major provisions in the original peace pact.

Peace forum

The proposal, drawn up during a Catholic Church-backed Negros Peace Forum held here in December, was submitted to Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process Eduardo Ermita.

The PAN asked that the original definition of acts that constitute "hostilities" be redefined so that it would not be limited only to offensives that the Revolutionary Proletarian Army-Alex Boncayao Brigade (RPA-ABB), the RPM-P's armed group, might take against government forces.

The group said "recruitment, taxation, public display of firearms, summoning of civilians" should also be defined as hostile acts on the part of the RPA-ABB.

The PAN also said the original agreement did not define the so called "controlled areas" of the RPA-ABB, making it appear that the government had lost control or abdicated authority in these areas.

To correct this, the group said a statement should be inserted in the agreement, stating that the term "controlled" should not be construed to mean loss of government control or the granting of control to the rebel group.

Police powers

The PAN also disagreed with a provision in the agreement that granted police powers to RPA-ABB members who arrest criminal suspects.

The PAN viewed this provision with alarm as "there are no conditions defined to govern the exercise of such functions, no timeframe, no territorial delimitation, no provisions to determine who will be 'qualified' to perform what specific functions and under whose supervision."

The PAN proposed that only the police and other law enforcing agencies should perform peacekeeping functions.

The PAN also said it wants the provision on the special permits to carry firearms granted to RPA-ABB members be amended because by merely stating that RPA-ABB members could carry firearms in their so-called "controlled" would be open to abuse.

The group proposed that all special permits to carry firearms granted to the RPA-ABB "should be guided by existing regulations and requirements."

'TREND,' SAYS PNP

Kidnappings move to provinces

CAMP OLIVAS, Pampanga—At least 11 kidnappings were recorded by the police in the last six weeks, all of which took place in the provinces, Philippine National Police records showed.

Director General Leandro Mendoza, PNP chief, said this indicated that areas outside Metro Manila are becoming the new bases for kidnap-for-ransom syndicates.

"The trend is outside . . . Metro Manila," Mendoza told reporters here yesterday. "We're looking into it very deeply."

All the kidnappings recorded since January took place in Central Luzon, Southern Luzon, Cotabato and Davao, he said.

In contrast, he said there was no kidnapping in Metro Manila for the same period. In Metro Manila last year, police arrested at least 230 members of kidnap-for-ransom groups, he said.

Although confirming the rise in kidnappings in the provinces, Mendoza said the count was "not alarming."

Without citing figures, he said the number of kidnappings between January and February in 1999, 2000 and 2001 was higher.

He said none of the 11 kidnap victims since January this year was killed.

Mendoza also downplayed the capability of province-based kidnap-for-ransom syndicates. He described these groups as "small," "new" and "easy to catch."

Unlike highly organized syndicates, he said these kidnap bands demanded between P200,000 and P500,000 in ransom money.

Mendoza also said the kidnappings were "not part of destabilization plots" against the Macapagal administration.

The operations have shifted to the provinces because, according to him, the PNP had launched an intense anti-kidnapping drive in Metro Manila.

Still, kidnappings in the provinces remained a cause of concern.

Mendoza said he is meeting with the police chiefs of the regions where kidnappings had taken place.

Relatives of kidnap victims, however, seemed to have little confidence on the police.

In Angeles City, for example, two kidnap victims—the first abducted on Jan. 31 and the second last week—chose not to cooperate with the police, INQUIRER sources said. Both victims are Chinese-Filipinos.

Sources said the families had paid ransom money. The first victim reportedly paid P8 million while the second victim paid P6 million. Police could not confirm whether ransom was paid.

On Wednesday, Supt. Arturo Cacdac, city police director, told reporters that his office only had "unverified, sketchy information" on the kidnapping of Ricardo Tan, a Chinese-Filipino businessman.

The Tan family, according to Cacdac, refused to give details on the abduction and ransom payment.

Mendoza also ordered a new anti-kidnapping team formed to crack down on the Pentagon, which continues to hold an Italian priest hostage.

The new team will replace Task Force Sanglahi-Pentagon, which was formed last year to run after the Pentagon.

Deputy Director General Edgar Galvante, PNP head of operations, and Director Rey Velasco, head of comptrollership were named heads of the new team. ***Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk and TJ Burgonio***

Dollars, GI Joes lure Davao girls

DAVAO CITY—Sex traffickers have turned their eye on street girls here in anticipation of the "entertainment" needs of American forces in Zamboanga City, Lawig Bubay, a non-government organization said.

Evelyn Obeja, director of the Lawig Bubay here, said some of the street girls, who have left Davao City, were lured by prospects of high dollar income by their recruiters.

She said other prostituted girls relayed the reports about the recruitment to them.

Obeja said the high prospects offered by sex traffickers have stirred interest on moving to Zamboanga City among the girls here, although some have been thinking twice.

But to be able to recruit more girls, she said that sex traffickers would even wait outside the city's Social Hygiene Clinic.

"Other (girls) were not lured because of the distance. But there are those who took the chances," she said.

Pilgrim Guasa, executive director of the Tambayan Center, another NGO which works with adult hookers, said the recruitment did not come as a surprise at all.

But she said her group is still documenting how many girls were really lured by the prospects of high dollar income from the US forces.

Daisy Apat of the Talikala, a group that works for the welfare of prostituted women, confirmed reports on the recruitment of women from the city, including street girls.

But like Guasa, Apat said that Talikala would want to know how many girls went to Zamboanga.

The INQUIRER learned that the reports on massive recruitment of street girls to work as prostitutes in Zamboanga have alarmed some members of the city council.

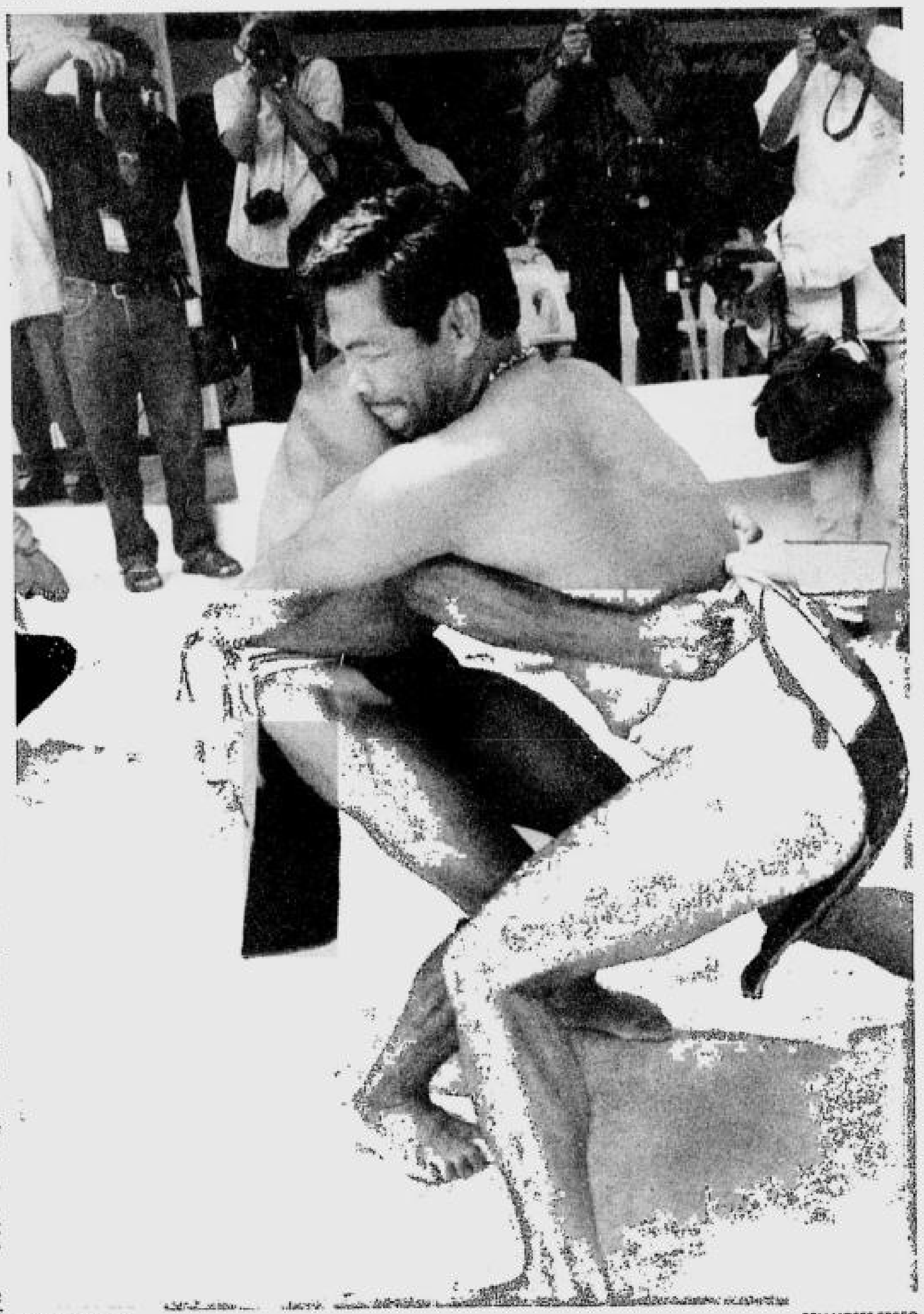
Some of them are demanding an investigation.

The arrival of US troops in Mindanao drew opposition from various groups.

One of the effects of the Americans' arrival, said women's groups, is to increase the level of prostitution of Filipino women.

The involvement of the American soldiers in war games with their Filipino counterparts is also being investigated by the Senate.

Several senators said the war games could be a violation of the Constitution. ***Ayan Mellejor, PDI Mindanao Bureau***



BEN MOSES EBREO

WARRIORS
Bugkalot men display their prowess in a native form of wrestling in front of photographers during a recent celebration of tribal unity in Nueva Vizcaya.

3 Misuari followers slain in clash

ZAMBOANGA CITY—Three followers of jailed Moro leader Nur Misuari were killed after their group clashed with Army soldiers in Sibago Island, Tuburan, Basilan on Tuesday morning.

Col. Roland Detabali, Southern Command's deputy chief for operation, said the fatalities were among the members of a 30-man Misuari Renegade Group led by a certain Commander Itti that engaged elements of the 18th Infantry Battalion in an intense firefight around 11:25 a.m.

He said the soldiers were on patrol near their detachment when the rebels fired at them.

"Fortunately, there were no casualties on our side," Detabali told the INQUIRER.

The bodies of the three rebels were brought to the municipal hall of Tuburan, but these were not identified.

As of yesterday afternoon, Army soldiers were pursuing the fleeing rebels.

Maj. Noel Detoyato, Southcom spokesperson, said the "aggressiveness of Misuari's loyalists" was detected after their reported merger with Abu Sayyaf bandits.

The merger was first reported among Moro National Liberation Front fighters and the forces of Abu Sayyaf leaders Ghalib Andang and Radulan Sahiron in Sulu. ***Julie Alipala, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

Soldiers claim killing 5 NPA rebels in encounter

CAMP MELCHOR DE LA CRUZ, Isabela—Five suspected New People's Army rebels were killed in an encounter with government soldiers and policemen in Quirino town on Tuesday.

Brig. Gen. Rodolfo Alvarado, 5th Infantry Division commander, said the five rebels belonged to the Sandatahang Yunit Pampropaganda of the NPA's Filomena Asuncion Front. The unit is reportedly operating in northern and eastern Isabela.

Alvarado said they have yet to identify the slain rebels.

Army Sgt. Robert Tindal was wounded in the firefight, Alvarado said. Tindal was taken to the Camp Melchor de la Cruz Hospital in Echague town.

Alvarado said other rebels were wounded in the firefight as soldiers found bloodstains in the encounter scene.

Col. Levy Zamora, 45th Infantry Battalion chief, said Army soldiers and members of the 1st police provincial mobile group encountered the rebels who were taking lunch in three houses in Barangay Dolores.

Alvarado said the firefight started at 1 p.m. Tuesday, with sporadic clashes reported until Wednesday morning.

Soldiers recovered two M-16 Armalite rifles, a shotgun, bullets and anti-government documents from the encounter site.

The bodies of the slain rebels were taken to the Quirino municipal health office for autopsy.

In Pampanga, three suspected communist rebels on Wednesday gunned down a policeman for the latter's alleged involvement in illegal drugs and holdup syndicates in the province.

The Rebolusyonaryong Hukbong Bayan-Pampanga, in a statement issued Wednesday, claimed responsibility for the killing of SPO3 Apolinario Capulong, 40.

Capulong was said to be the third policeman executed by the RHB-Pampanga command since late last year.

Capulong, a resident of Candaba town, was ambushed near a bridge in Barangay Poblacion in Mexico town at 8 a.m.

The execution was carried out as the Philippine National Police in Central Luzon held its 13th founding anniversary rites in Camp Olivas, some 7 km southwest of Mexico.

Ka Den, RHB spokesperson, claimed Capulong framed up innocent civilians in cases that remained unsolved.

The policeman, according to the RHB leader, was also active in intelligence operations against RHB units in Candaba and San Luis towns. ***Villamor Visaya Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau, with a report from Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk***

ROUNDUP

Fewer crimes

OROQUIETA CITY—Despite the lack of personnel, police in Misamis Occidental managed to reduce criminality in the province. Supt. John Evasco Fuentes, police provincial director, said that compared to the 562 crimes registered in 2000, last year's crime volume was only 486 or a 13.5 percent decrease. Fuentes attributed the decline to the innovations adopted by his command and the improved competency of policemen. ***Ryan Rosauro, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

Phone dealer slain

ANGELES CITY—Two motorcycle-riding robbers gunned down a cellular phone dealer in front of his store in Barangay Sto. Rosario here on Sunday night. Police said Abrenico Tongol, 31, died from four bullet wounds after the robbers shot him at close range. Supt. Arturo Cacdac, Angeles police chief, said the suspects took Tongol's money, his cellular phone and several prepaid cellular phone cards from his store. ***Jun Malig, PDI Central Luzon Desk***

Victims get paid

SAN FERNANDO CITY—Relatives of 16 fatalities in last week's vehicular accident in Bokod, Benguet, will collect P50,000 each while the injured will get P12,500 each for hospitalization bills. This was learned on Thursday from an official of the insurance company that covered the ill-fated Norton Bus. Josephine Naungayan, La Union branch manager of the Makati-based Philippine Accident Managers Inc., a consortium of 23 insurance companies, said the company has set aside P1.25 million for the purpose. ***Peter La. Julian, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau***

LTO chief nabbed

SAN FERNANDO CITY—National Bureau of Investigation agents arrested on Thursday the Ilocos chief of the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board on charges of accepting bribe from a bus operator. Victor Bessat, NBI regional director, said LTFRB Regional Director Bruno Patricio was caught pocketing P2,000 in marked money given to him by a bus operator in exchange for his approval of the bus firm's franchise application. Patricio filed a P30,000-bond for his temporary liberty. Bessat said the NBI agents acted on a complaint of Ireneo Laurean of Pangasinan who was applying for a franchise for his minibus to ply the Urdaneta City-San Fernando City route. ***Peter La. Julian, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau***

Students' shelter

PUERTO PRINCESA CITY—The Rotary Club of Puerto Princesa has inaugurated a dormitory in Barangay Macarascas here aimed at providing provide temporary shelters for students. The P400,000 two-story dormitory or "Bahay Tuluyan" can house 30 to 40 students, according to Puerto Princesa Rotary Club president Efren Chua. Chua said the Rotary was moved by the children's plight in Macarascas town where some have to take a long walk from their houses to come to school. ***Ruelle Albert Castro, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau***

FOR SOUTHERN MINDANAO

₱67.2M set aside to make farms survive drought

DAVAO CITY—The agriculture department has set aside P67.2 million to help Southern Mindanao farmers cope with the effects of the El Niño.

Roger Chio, DA director for the region, said based on a forecast issued by the Philippine Atmospheric Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa), the prolonged dry spell would start by April.

However, Chio said the phenomenon, characterized by unpredictable changes in temperature, would be milder compared to the El Niño of 1997.

Agriculture Secretary Leonardo Montemayor, during a recent visit here, said Pagasa should issue a precise forecasting of the El Niño so that the government could come up with emergency food production plans for the farmers.

Montemayor also said the demand of the Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas for the adoption of a Comprehensive Emergency Food Production Plan for the projected dry spell was valid.

The KMP has also asked the Macapagal administration to pursue a policy of food self-sufficiency and food security instead of relying on food importation in times of emergencies.

According to a report, the Bureau of Soils and Water Management reportedly expects El Niño to affect the Philippines, Indonesia, Australia and the rest of East Central and eastern Pacific between April and September this year.

The KMP said genuine food security in times of emergencies would help people cope with the threats of El Niño.

Montemayor said it was a valid request from the farmers.

"But a precise forecasting system is needed by (the) DA to use such data in formulating its plan," he said.

He said it was also important for the DA to know what are the places that would be affected by the drought to allow the department to set up shallow tube wells.

Montemayor said it would also be of help to project losses of revenues and advise farmers when to plant.

The KMP came up with an initial "Eight-Point Emergency Food Production Plan" to be carried out in times of imminent drought.

Among these are:

- A stop to the rampant conversion of agricultural lands devoted to or suitable to food production into other uses like coconut logging and illegal and commercial logging.
- Encourage production of food crops, instead of export crops production.
- Practice crop diversification, instead of mono-cropping practices. Immediately halt alleged land-grabbing schemes of the San Miguel Corp.'s cassava plantation project in Isabela and mono-cropping practices employed by multinational corporations;
- Divert funds for debt servicing and military operations to subsidies for food production.
- Build, repair and rehabilitate of medium and small irrigation facilities, shallow tube well irrigation facilities and other water impounding structures as part of a water conservation and usage program.
- Practice sustainable agriculture procedures and farm practices to avoid soil and environmental destruction.
- Break up monopolies over seeds, other farm inputs and implements, and the immediate distribution at no cost of planting materials like crop seeds that are resistant to drought.
- Allocate enough and necessary funds for price support subsidy for farmers' produce.

Meanwhile, Chio said that the agriculture department has estimated that 36,634 hectares out of the total 91,263 hectares of riceland in Southern Mindanao would be affected by the prolonged dry spell. ***Anthony Allada and Ayan Mellejor, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

Vietnamese boat people find permanent home in Palawan

By Jofelle P. Tesorio
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

PUERTO PRINCESA CITY—There were the traditional *tikoy*, food wrapped in colored paper, candies for children and a lot of merry-making as former Vietnamese boat people here celebrated the start of the Year of the Horse.

In this city, it's not only the Chinese who celebrate the New Year in February but also the Vietnamese who have already integrated themselves with local residents.

The Vietnamese Village, located some 15 km from the city's main district, lighted up with firecrackers at the tick of midnight on Feb. 12.

The 8.2-hectare village has become the home of the Vietnamese who have remained since the repatriation in 1996. Others voluntarily went home to Vietnam.

Every February, tourists and local residents, flock to the Vietville in Barangay Sta. Lourdes to witness a traditional "Chinese New Year" celebration.

About 300 villagers live a contented life in the village.

Most of them have their noodle shop business locals call "chaolongan," which are found in almost all corners of Puerto Princesa City. It is a term coined from the delicious rice noodle served with mungbean sprout and wild chili called *chaolong*.

It is a favorite among locals, especially among those who stay late in the evening because most "chaolongans" operate 24 hours.

Chaolong, French bread and Vietnamese spring rolls have become part of the local cuisine just like native cashew nuts.

Market vendor Manny Basconada says he can not imagine Puerto Princesa without the Vietnamese because they have become their regular customers who always ask for a bargain.

Other enterprising Vietnamese find a living selling different products ranging from jewelry to umbrellas on installment basis.

In their motorcycle bikes, they go around town offering their merchandize at rock-bottom prices.

Their motorcycle bikes are important not only in their business but also as a reliable service whenever they go home since public transportation to their village are so scarce, especially in the late afternoon or evening.

They also offer loans for those who need money immediately. The interest is lower than that of the lending investors or pawnshops and the payment terms are not too much. One can pay in whatever amount anytime.

Abu Sayyaf effect

Village chair Che Nat Giao said they are also affected by the Abu Sayyaf incident and the world trade center bombing. Tourists no longer visit their village to eat at their restaurant, which is run by their cooperative.

The *chaolong* business also slowed down but Che is optimistic that Palawan will bounce back.

The 37-year-old Che, who speaks fluent English, said the Vietnamese want to help the local economy and they do not want anything bad to happen to Palawan because they already consider themselves adopted Filipinos.

Most of them avoid any misunderstanding with a Filipino and as much as possible, try to be friends with everybody.

Che and some of his friends often participate in civic actions.

Last May elections, he volunteered to be part of the news team for the RGMA-Palawan radio station.

According to Che, those who were left behind before the repatriation have no intention of going back to China or join their relatives in the United States.

Che, who belonged to the last batch of boat people, arrived in Puerto Princesa City in 1989.

The war was over then but Che did not like the political ambiance. He said he was not a refugee but a political migrant.

Che's parents are in Vietnam and his siblings are in the United States.

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: The Eastern section of the country will experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers. source: **pagasa**

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	HI30° Lo 22°
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	HI 23° Lo 13°
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	HI 27° Lo 18°
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	HI 32° Lo 21°
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	HI 30° Lo 20°
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	HI 28° Lo 20°
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	HI 28° Lo 22°
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	HI 28° Lo 19°
Iloilo/Bacolod	Partly Cloudy	HI 31° Lo 24°
Roxas	Partly Cloudy	HI 30° Lo 26°
Cebu	Partly Cloudy	HI 31° Lo 23°
Tacloban	Partly Cloudy	HI 31° Lo 23°
Gen. Santos	Partly Cloudy	HI 33° Lo 23°
Zamboanga	Partly Cloudy	HI 33° Lo 23°
Cagayan de Oro	Partly Cloudy	HI 31° Lo 23°
Davao	Cloudy with Rains	HI 30° Lo 24°

Compiled by: Ray Leyesa, PDI Research/02/14/02

Chinese poachers 'celebrate' New Year

PUERTO PRINCESA CITY—It was not a happy New Year's Day for the 116 Chinese nationals who are detained at the provincial jail here.

When greeted by this reporter "Kung Hei Fat Choi," their faces turned sour.

Jail warden Ramon Espina said the Chinese were not happy to celebrate the New Year in the Philippines.

Espina, however, allowed some of them out of jail to get two pigs from their vessels for the New Year. The Chinese had pork and *pechay* to welcome the year of the horse sans fireworks and the traditional *tikoy*.

Espina said the arrival of the Chinese has cramped the jail even more.

The Chinese are being fed by the Philippine government, which has a daily allowance of P30 per inmate. "I don't know where to get their food in the days to come," he said. ***Jofelle Tesorio, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau***

MABAGAL PA
SA PAGONG
ANG
PAG-ASENSO
NG BUHAY DITO.

Mabilis na sanang mapapaunlad ng mga magsasaka sa Camarines Sur ang kanilang buhay kung hindi nabinbin ang kinita sa PEACe Bonds na gagamitin para sa mga proyektong puputol sa tanikala ng kanilang mga utang. Huwag sanang lalong pabagalin ng pag-iimbestiga sa PEACe Bonds ang kanilang pag-unlad.

Maraming mahihirap na komunidad ang naghihintay sa biyayang idudulot ng PEACe Bonds -- isang malinis na transaksyong pinansyal para sa mga kapus-palad nating kababayan. Ipagkakait pa ba natin sa kanila ang perang ito?

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SALEM THE BED
"Ang Hari Ng Tibay"
SALEM HOUSE

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0268 Series of 2002

US agrees to hit only Abu Sayyaf in war games

From page A1

The minutes represent the respective commitments of the Philippines and the United States in the conduct of Balikatan 02-1 exercise and form part of the TOR.

Diplomatic parity

Guingona, however, did not sign the TOR as his US counterpart, Secretary of State Colin Powell was not the signatory for the US Side.

Ambassador Minerva Falcon, assistant foreign secretary for American affairs, and Roberts Fitts, charge d'affaires of the US Embassy in Manila, signed the TOR at the Department of Foreign Affairs.

Presidential spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao said Guingona did not want to sign the TOR with a mere US charge d'affaires.

"He proposed it. He spoke with the President (on Tuesday)," Tiglao said when asked why Guingona did not sign the TOR. "It's for reasons of diplomatic parity."

The chair of the House foreign affairs committee scored Powell for not signing the TOR and for snubbing Guingona in a teleconference on Tuesday.

"That is the height of American arrogance," Negros Occidental Rep. Jose Apolinario Lozada Jr. said.

Last-minute choice

Falcon was a last-minute choice for the Philippine panel.

President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday said in a chance interview that it was agreed upon at the Cabinet committee meeting on Tuesday afternoon that Foreign Undersecretary Lauro Baja Jr. would sign the TOR opposite Fitts.

"I talked to (Executive) Secretary (Alberto) Romulo last night and he told me 'it's a go.' I think it will be signed by Usec Baja and Bob Fitts," the President said.

Guingona snubbed the Cabinet meeting. In Guingona's absence, the Cabinet oversight committee on internal security gave the go-signal for the signing of the TOR.

The United States also appeared to have also invoked parity between US and Philippine military officials who signed the draft letter for the TOR.

Sullivan not Blair

The TOR was recommended for approval in a letter dated Feb. 9 and signed by Gen. Diomedio Villanueva, Armed Forces of the Philippines chief of staff, and Rear Admiral W. D. Sullivan, representing Admiral Dennis Blair, chief of the US Pacific Command.

A draft endorsement letter for the TOR bearing the date Jan. 28 indicated a space for Blair's supposed signature across that of Villanueva.

Guingona said he had already briefed the President on the contents of the TOR and sent copies to the Senate, the House of Representatives, the Department of Foreign Affairs and the Department of Defense.

The joint operations were launched on Jan. 15 in formal ceremonies in Zamboanga City but American troops were confined to their barracks as the signing of the TOR was delayed largely due to disagreements over whether US troops would be under the control of the Philippine military.

US soldiers under US command

Under the TOR, American military officers, not Filipinos, will be in command over the US troops participating in the Balikatan 02-1.

"AFP and US unit commanders will retain command over their respective forces under the overall authority of the exercise co-directors," the TOR said.

This demarcation of command was a result of US objections to the government's initial position to place American forces under the "authority" of AFP officers.

A draft TOR released last week by Malacañang read: "Nothing shall infringe on the AFP unit commander's authority."

Sources earlier said that this formulation in the draft TOR was a revision of a DFA position that the TOR should explicitly say that the US troops are under the authority of Filipino commanders.

In the approved TOR, such authority will be exercised jointly by training co-directors Brig. Gen. Emmanuel Teodosio, AFP deputy chief of staff for education, and Brig. Gen. Donald Wurster, commander of the Special Operations Command of the US Pacific Command.

The TOR also say that the military exercise will be implemented by Teodosio and Wurster "under the authority of the Chief of Staff, AFP."

"In no instance will US forces operate independently during the field training exercises (FTX). . . RP and US participants shall comply with operational instructions of the AFP during the FTX," the TOR says.

Washington, through lawyers dispatched by the Department of State, inserted a provision in the TOR saying that the terms "are for purposes of this exercise only."

The provision also said that the terms "do not create additional legal obligations between the US government and the Republic of the Philippines."

A Cabinet source had earlier noted that American forces were bound more to mission orders issued by the US military brass rather than the rules in the TOR.

Malacañang also released the transcript of the teleconference between Guingona and Kelly in which the latter said American forces would be in the Philippines to "advise, assist and train" Filipino troops.

Both Guingona and Kelly "reiterated" that "US forces shall not engage in combat during the exercise, except in accordance with their right to act in self-defense."

Waiver

"Both Secretary Guingona and Assistant Secretary Kelly recognized that, pursuant to Article VI of the Visiting Forces Agreement, both the US and Philippine governments waive any and all claims against the other for deaths or injuries to their military and civilian personnel from the exercise," according to the transcript.

At his press conference, Guingona said: "I also wanted clear understanding on the issues of authority, on the issue of unilateral actions, and on the issue of combat."

"These are now resolved to our satisfaction, as can be seen from the TOR and the agreed minutes themselves," he said.

Fitts also expressed satisfaction over the TOR.

"Everything is agreed. Both sides are happy," Fitts said at a press conference at the Philippine National Police headquarters in Camp Crame in Quezon City.

At his regular press briefing in Malacañang, Tiglao said Ms Macapagal was "confident" that the TOR and the minutes "will end criticisms and fabricated fears that the exercise is other than for training and that it weakens our sovereignty."

Tiglao said US forces would not be in the country for "imagined secret Special Forces mission to take out the Abu Sayyaf."

"It will be our own soldiers who will do that," the presidential spokesperson said.

$100-M military aid

In the minutes, the United States reiterated that it would provide the Philippine military some $100 million in "security assistance" to combat terrorism this year.

The amount was more than five times the $22 million appropriated by the US government for military assistance to the Philippines before the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks last year.

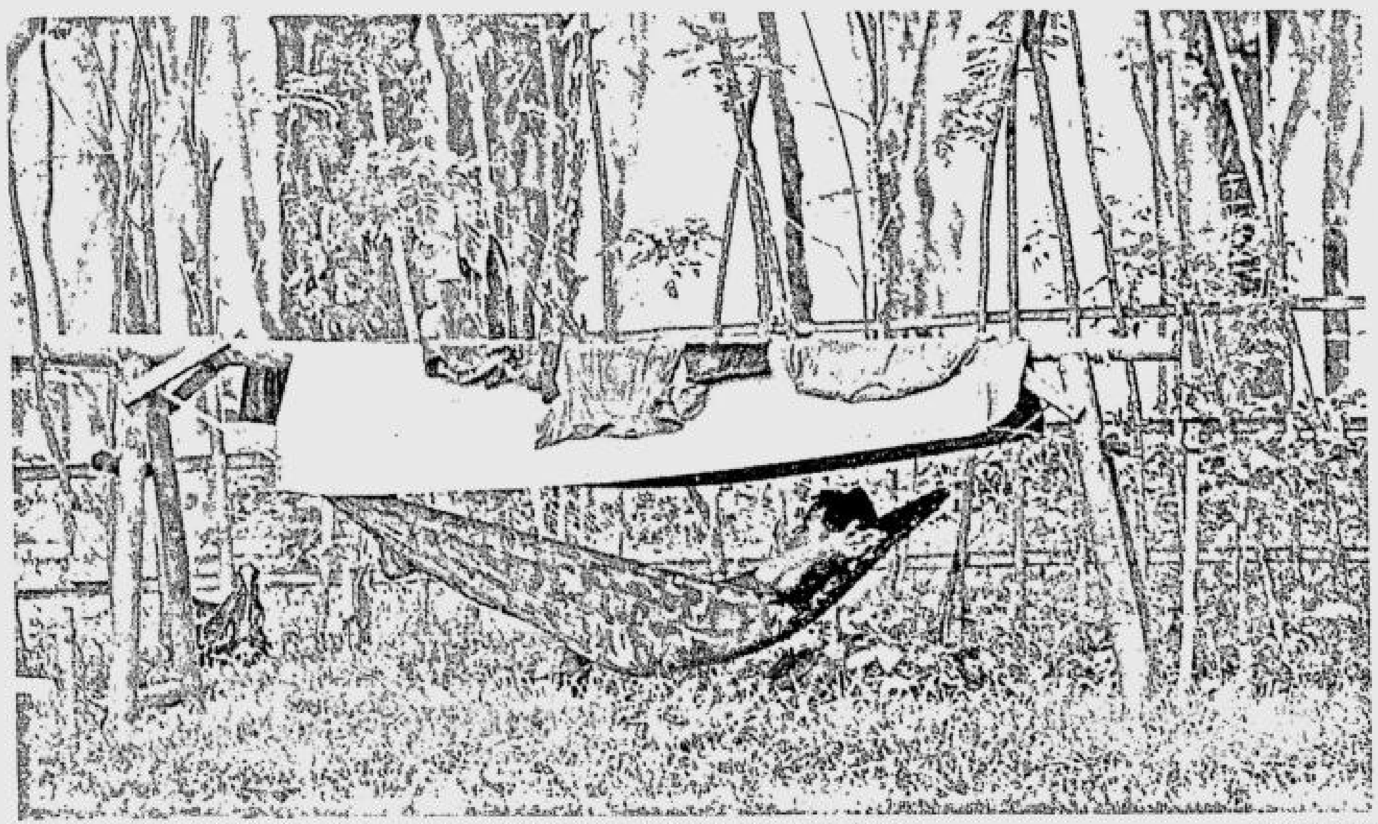
The Department of Foreign Affairs was quick to say that the $100 million was not in exchange for allowing the longer presence of US troops in the country.

Asked to explain the substantial increase in US aid, DFA spokesperson Victoriano Lecaros mentioned the country's fight against terrorism.

"The terrorists have become bolder since the Sept. 11 attack on the US. As a result, the US increased the assistance," he said.

The $100 million was promised by US President George W. Bush to Ms Macapagal during the latter's visit to Washington last November.

The minutes showed that Guingona and Kelly were looking forward to "the realization of the nearly $100 million in security assistance for fiscal year 2001-2002 agreed upon between H.E. President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo and H.E. President George W. Bush last November 2001." ***With reports from TJ Burgonio and Juliet L. Javellana***



THIRD World contraption for this Scout Ranger compared to the American soldier's gear. VAL HANDUMON

'Callous display of arrogance'

From page A1

Balikatan 02-1 to investigate the incident. Americans were not allowed to carry firearms in public places, he said.

"I was also surprised when I saw the picture. That was not allowed by us. I told Gen. (Emmanuel) Teodosio, I directed him to tell his counterpart about the incident. That was not nice," Cimatu, in a telephone interview with defense reporters, said.

Teodosio is the Filipino training director for Balikatan 02-1.

According to Teodosio, the Americans were accompanied by two Filipino soldiers when they withdrew money from the bank.

Forgive them

"According to them, they had spotted suspicious people so they went back to their vehicle and took out their long firearms . . . Maybe we should just forgive them because they were edgy and jittery *(pagpasensyahan na natin sila medyo edgy at jittery at hindi pa masyadong sanay pa)*," Teodosio said in a radio interview.

In Camp Aguinaldo, Brig. Gen. Edilberto Adan, the military spokesperson, was more defensive.

"I don't think it's a violation. It's a simple coordination problem, it could be easily coordinated with the Americans through exercise co-director (Teodosio)," he said.

"There is nothing wrong with providing security for your comrades going to the bank, involved in finances. What was wrong with it was that they carried long firearms and they were in civilian clothes . . ." he added.

Tiglao also said it "will be a minor complaint" and the issue will be raised before the Presidential Commission on the Visiting Forces Agreement (VFA) which is headed by Vice President and Foreign Secretary Teofisto Guingona Jr. It is tasked to monitor compliance with the provisions of the agreement.

No way

A report aired by RMN radio from its Zamboanga City correspondent noted that some Americans who entered the bank were asked by the bank's security guards to turn in their weapons as a matter of standard procedure.

The report said one American supposedly responded: "No way."

"It's not a major problem but we will only point out that we prefer Filipino officers and soldiers to act as bodyguards to their (US) people withdrawing money from the banks," Tiglao said.

Tiglao said initial reports indicated that US forces "were on an emergency to get funds for their personnel at the bank."

"They were given authority to bear those firearms to secure their people withdrawing money from the bank," Tiglao said.

Wild, wild West

Muntinlupa City Rep. Rozzano Rufino Biazon, a member of the House defense committee, urged Congress to convene the VFA's oversight committee to investigate the incident.

"It is the duty of Congress to perform its task in ensuring that the sovereignty and rights of the Philippines and the Filipinos are upheld," Biazon said.

Negros Occidental Rep. Jose Apolinario Lozada Jr., chair of the House foreign affairs committee, denounced the "callous display of arrogance" by apparently some of the US troops participating in the joint military exercise dubbed Balikatan 02-1.

"Can we go to a bank in New York brandishing assault rifles? These Americans are turning Zamboanga into their Wild, Wild West," Lozada said.

Lozada said that if the Americans do not feel safe going around in Zamboanga, the proper thing to do was for them to be duly escorted by the Philippine National Police.

Biazon, in a statement, said his attention was caught by the INQUIRER photograph with a caption asking "is this any way to withdraw . . . a fistful of dollars?"

"This representation, a red-blooded Filipino, cannot just go around brandishing my pistol much more an assault rifle, on the way to the bank," Biazon said.

"In order for me to bring my firearm for self-defense, I must secure the permission of my government, through the PNP, by way of license to own a firearm and a permit to carry the same," Biazon added.

Biazon added that it is standard procedure that the members of the PNP and the AFP are not allowed to carry their firearms when they are off-duty and not in uniform unless they have a specific mission order.

Biazon asked the military to identify the Caucasian men toting assault rifles in front of the bank and inquire why they were in civilian clothes and carrying firearms in public.

"Is he one of the American advisers, consultants, technicians or whatever it is the US military participants in the Balikatan 02-1 are called?" Biazon asked.

Lozada said such incidents might not be answered under the Terms of Reference that has been signed yesterday.

Guingona furnished Lozada with the minutes of his teleconference with US Assistant Secretary of State James Kelly and the approved TOR ***(Story on page A1). With a report from Dona Pazzibugan***

Int'l media body urges RP to probe Arlyn case

From page A1

portedly on her way to interview Abu Sayyaf gunmen who are holding the American missionary couple, Gracia and Martin Burnham, in the jungles of Basilan island.

"We respectfully but strongly urge you to ensure that a thorough investigation into the disappearance of Ms de la Cruz is carried out and that everything possible is done to secure her swift and safe return," the World Association of Newspapers said in a letter to Ms Macapagal.

The group, which represents more than 18,000 publications (including the INQUIRER) in 93 countries, also asked the President to guarantee the safety of all journalists covering joint US-Philippine military operations against the Abu Sayyaf.

But the military continues to classify De la Cruz, who's also an INQUIRER contributor, as "missing" person, and not a kidnapped victim, its spokesperson said yesterday.

Brig. Gen. Edilberto Adan added that because De la Cruz is not considered a kidnapped victim, they could not deploy men and resources to search for her. But last week, Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes ordered the military to search for her.

"We will be spending a lot of energy and resources to try to rescue a person who is not a victim in the first place. We don't want this to happen, so we have to be careful about (it)," Adan said during a briefing yesterday.

"It will entail a lot of sacrifices on the part of our men, some of them will be wounded, some would even be killed, so we have to be sure whether there is really a kidnapping case before we act on it," he added.

De la Cruz's close links with the Abu Sayyaf are well known to the military. De la Cruz has made frequent trips to Abu Sayyaf lairs in the past, and is so far the only journalist to have interviewed and taken footages of the Burnhams since their abduction nine months ago.

Conflicting reports

According to Adan, the military had been receiving conflicting reports about De la Cruz with some saying that she was merely working on a story.

News reports on Tuesday said De la Cruz had called up former Ilocos Gov. Chavit Singson and told him she was seized by armed men speaking a Tausug but added her abductors were not Abu Sayyaf members. They were demanding a ransom of P40 million and P500,000 immediately.

De la Cruz's disappearance came amid reports that foreign networks were willing to pay big money for exclusive interviews with the Abu Sayyaf and their captives.

Other reports said Abu Sayyaf leader, Abu Sabaya, had ordered his men to "liquidate" De la Cruz after she allegedly ran off with the rebel's share of money for the interviews.

The military had earlier warned journalists from venturing to Basilan without coordinating with them following intelligence reports that the Abu Sayyaf could target them as hostages.

Last week, two foreign journalists were nearly abducted by armed men posing as army soldiers as they prepared to cross over to Basilan from a nearby port city.

Adan also pointed out that De la Cruz's own relatives have not filed a complaint. The INQUIRER has learned that De la Cruz's husband who's also an Iglesia ni Cristo follower has started a prayer vigil for her and is leaving everything up to God. ***With reports from AFP and Martin Marfil***

Gov't soldiers kill 7 more Abus

From page A1

After an hour-long gun battle, the soldiers overran the MILF camp and found at least one uniform with an MILF patch on it.

But there was no sign of the hostages who were abducted in Sarangani on Feb. 6 while the two were on a treasure hunt.

MILF leaders denied they were behind the abduction, saying they were helping to recover the two captives. But military officials believed the MILF was coddling the kidnappers.

The government has forged a ceasefire with the MILF while peace negotiations are going on. Despite the ceasefire, sporadic clashes with government forces still take place.

Government troops are also hunting down another armed Moro group, the so-called Pentagon gang, which is holding hostage Italian Giuseppe "Beppe" Pierantoni.

Earlier reports said that the kidnappers had killed Pierantoni after the government refused to pay ransom.

On Wednesday, however, police said Pierantoni had sent a letter confirming he was still alive and requesting ransom payment.

Pierantoni's hand-written letter, dated Jan. 11 and sent through an emissary of the kidnappers, told his Church superiors: "I am writing you to let you know I am alive and in good health."

"I am ready to go home, as long as you pay the financial assistance requested by those who kidnapped me," the letter said without giving details.

The Church and the government earlier rejected a demand for about $1 million as ransom for the priest who was abducted at his parish church in Dimataling, Zamboanga del Sur, on Oct. 17.

Supt. Rogelio Nuneza, police chief of Iligan City, said the note had raised hopes that the priest would be released soon.

Church sources said they were making preparations to receive Pierantoni but it was not yet clear if any ransom had been paid.

Last month, a leader of the Pentagon gang was quoted as saying the priest had died in captivity.

While government troops are stepping up the counter-terrorist drive in Mindanao, hundreds of American soldiers are preparing for the RP-US Balikatan military training exercise.

The exercise is aimed at stamping out the Abu Sayyaf, which has been linked to Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida terrorist network, in Basilan where the bandits are holding hostage an American missionary couple and a Filipino nurse. ***Reports from Martin P. Marfil, Armand C. Nocum, AFP and AP***

House rallies behind Ani, junks impeach rap

From page A1

The Senate leaders, he said, noted that an impeachment trial of Desierto would take many months and would just be overtaken by Desierto's retirement in August.

Video equipment

The first impeachment complaint was filed by Ernesto Francisco Jr., who claimed that Desierto received video equipment worth P273,000 and P500,000 in cash in 1997 from his client, bank owner Luke Roxas, in exchange for sitting on the investigation of the so-called Petron scam involving Roxas' bank.

The Bank of Southeast Asia was then being investigated after a syndicate was able to encash at the bank checks amounting to P539 million that Petron Corp. had issued as payment to the Bureau of Customs.

The second complaint alleges that Desierto filed a weak case against the Chingkoe Group of Companies in connection with a P5-billion tax credit scam.

De Venecia lamented that Francisco had "chosen to vilify me despite the fact that I have done my constitutional duty of transmitting both complaints without exhausting two 10-session days for him to do so.

"I could have frozen it on my desk and rightly so because the complaints consisted of hundreds of pages but I did not," the Speaker said.

Hearsay

Those who voted against impeaching Desierto harped on what they said was the "fatal flaw" of the charge and "hearsay" evidence presented by Francisco.

"Since his primary evidence is flawed, what more are we to discuss?" Rep. Rolando Andaya Jr. said.

Rep. Zenaida Ducut said Francisco did not personally witness the handing of the bribe money to Desierto. "I could not find an iota of evidence in his complaint," she said.

Rep. Antonio Abaya, chair of the House ethics committee, attacked the credibility of Francisco, saying he was facing two disbarment proceedings and one criminal case for fraud.

Francisco violated the sacred lawyer-client relationship and accused him of "selective crusading and afterthought" because the alleged bribery happened in 1997, according to Rep. Augusto Baculio.

Academic

Some members of the House said the impeachment process against Desierto was academic because he was retiring in August.

"This will open this Congress to charges of protecting the mighty in this country. But if we are to proceed with the impeachment, it's useless because he is retiring in August," Rep. Douglas Cagas said.

Representatives Felix Alfelor and Trinidad Apostol said the best thing to do was to wait for Desierto's retirement and charge him with plunder in court.

"This goes to show that impeachment is not the best remedy to address the complaints of our people. We don't have enough time to complete the process because the Ombudsman is retiring in August," Alfelor said.

Undue haste

But those who voted against the justice committee report bewailed the "undue haste" of the committee and the plenary in dismissing the complaint.

MAKING up is not hard to do for Reps. Neptali Gonzales Jr. and Etta Rosales after their heated arguments on the fate of the Ombudsman's impeachment. ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

"It is unfortunate that we have taken undue haste in disposing of the report, considering that we have not completed the process," Rep. Florencio Abad said.

Bayan Muna partylist Rep. Crispin Beltran said the committee sent the wrong signal to the people that "it will let pass serious charges against high officials."

Like De Venecia, House Assistant Majority Leader Francis Escudero abstained.

It took almost two hours before the House finally got to vote on justice committee report No. 150 as pro-impeachment and anti-impeachment legislators engaged in a raucous debate on whether to hold the vote.

Led by Representatives Oscar Moreno and Clavel Martinez, pro-impeachment legislators contended that the House could not vote on the report because the chamber had not exhausted 10 session days.

Akbayan Rep. Loretta Ann Rosales likewise wanted the plenary to allow her and her colleagues to question the findings of the justice committee "and not to hurry up the vote."

But Assistant Majority Leader Francisco Escudero stood by the House rules and said that yesterday was the last day for the plenary to act on the first impeachment complaint.

The vote went on after majority of the legislators voted to proceed with the voting.

Second complaint hit snag

Rep. Miguel Zubiri last night acknowledged that his group's bid to get the signatures of 73 colleagues to endorse the second impeachment complaint to the Senate had collapsed.

"It hit a snag when Francisco attacked members of Congress, especially Speaker De Venecia," Zubiri said.

He was referring to Francisco's accusation last weekend that the Speaker had stopped the investigation of the Petron scam upon the request of Roxas.

Zubiri said that because of Francisco's charges against De Venecia, 10 House members, who had earlier committed to sign the endorsement of the second complaint, backed out.

"I am very frustrated," Zubiri said on this development as he lamented that they were not able to get enough support from civil society groups.

Sources said that at least four congressmen who had earlier committed to sign up backed out Tuesday night because De Venecia had allegedly asked them to support Desierto.

The sources said that the four were members of the so-called Northern bloc in the House.

But Moreno, meanwhile, was not giving up hope on the fate of the second impeachment complaint, saying that his group would assess its legal position.

"The fight is not over," Moreno said.

Francisco said he had expected at the very start that his impeachment complaint against Desierto would be junked by the House.

"The entire process is sickening," Francisco told the INQUIRER. "Listening to those who voted to junk the complaint is like witnessing the worst kind of hypocrisy."

Sad day for House

"It's a pity that the House has shirked its responsibility," lamented Rep. Oscar Moreno who endorsed the impeachment complaint.

He said he and several others tried their best to ensure that the "Office of the Ombudsman would be manned by someone who deserves the vast powers" of his office.

Moreno rejected suggestions that Desierto be charged after his retirement, noting that the case would still fall on the lap of the next Ombudsman who could be Margarito Gervacio.

"How can we expect Gervacio to prosecute Desierto?" Moreno said.

Makati Rep. Teodoro Locsin Jr. voted against the dismissal, saying that by doing so he "lost a friend."

Locsin lamented that free debates were muzzled and that the committee only gave weight to the "self-serving affidavit" of Luke Roxas.

"The need for rules to maintain order was repeatedly invoked to quiet the turbulence in the House. But the only turbulence has risen not from the debates but from attempts to muzzle debate," Locsin said.

"I vote no in protest of the flawed proceedings," Bayan Muna Rep. Satur Ocampo said. He said the House had set Desierto "free to go about his corrupt ways."

18 senators back Erap bid for knee surgery in US

From page A1

"If Marcos granted Ninoy's request, why can't Estrada be afforded the same treatment?"

Sen. Loi Ejercito, Estrada's wife, said she was heartened by the outpouring of support from her colleagues.

She said that her husband planned to undergo treatment and therapy at the Stanford Medical Center in San Francisco.

Ejercito said that 125 congressmen had also signed a similar resolution. Both resolutions will be presented to the Sandiganbayan.

The anti-graft court on Wednesday postponed Estrada's scheduled arraignment on new charges of perjury and illegal use of an alias.

The Sandiganbayan allowed Estrada more time to rest after an operation three days earlier to remove a cataract from his right eye. It reset the arraignment for next Wednesday.

Estrada, already detained on a charge of plunder, was charged with perjury for allegedly understating his net worth in 1999. The second perjury case covers alleged misdeclaration of his 1998 net worth.

He also is accused of using the alias Jose Velarde to hide his alleged ownership of a P3.3-billion secret bank account. Prosecutors say he accumulated that during 31 months in power.

His lawyers have asked that the illegal use of alias case be thrown out, but the court denied their motion. They have requested reconsideration.

In the first perjury case, prosecutors claim Estrada lied when he declared net assets of P35 million in 1999 when he allegedly already had more than P1.8 billion in several bank accounts, including P1.73 billion in the "Jose Velarde" account.

In the second charge, Estrada allegedly misdeclared his net worth in 1998, reporting only P33.4 million when it should have been P85.5 million, including P57.1 million in undisclosed bank deposits, prosecutors said.

Prosecutors claim Estrada amassed about P4 billion in payoffs from illegal gambling operators and kickbacks from tobacco taxes and questionable government investments while in office.

He has denied any wrongdoing, insisting that all the charges were fabricated by political rivals.

Estrada refused to enter a plea in the plunder case and the first perjury case, prompting the court to enter a not guilty plea on his behalf.

He is detained at the Veterans Memorial Medical Center in Quezon City after complaining of various ailments, including eye problems, shortly after his arrest last April.

The court also said it would decide next week how often the trial hearings would be held beginning March.

Defense lawyers, saying they also represent other clients in other courts, want the hearings to be held only two days of the week, but prosecutors say hearings should be held daily.

So far, hearings are being held twice a week—on Mondays and Wednesdays. ***With a report from AP***

Gov't loses . . .

From page A1

ing rights and influence the direction of the Bulletin through their chosen directors.

Oddly, despite the sequestration, the Presidential Commission on Good Government did not exercise strict supervision over the disputed shares in the Bulletin unlike other sequestered companies.

The PCGG had issued the writ to sequester the holdings' assets in the Bulletin, which it believed were acquired through ill-gotten means.

However, the SC First Division said that in the absence of competent evidence that late Ferdinand Marcos or his cronies "ever acquired the shares of Hans Menzi or the HMHMI that might be subject to sequestration, we may not void the resolution of the Sandiganbayan in question."

In siding with the Sandiganbayan, the decision written by Associate Justice Bernardo Pardo, who retired on Monday, said: "The Supreme Court is not the trier of facts. It is not the court's function to examine and weigh all over again the evidence presented in the proceedings. We agree . . . that the Sandiganbayan has full authority to decide on all incidents in the ill-gotten case, including the propriety of the writs of the PCGG that it initially issued."

Who's who

Court records showed that HMHMI was organized in 1982 by Manuel Montecillo, Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco Jr., Cesar Zalamea and Jose Campos to serve as a holding company for their shares of stocks in the Bulletin and the shares of stocks of Menzi in five other companies, including Liwayway Publishing.

Montecillo was appointed executor of Menzi's estate after the latter died on June 27, 1984.

Court records showed that the late Menzi had owned almost 100 percent of Bulletin since 1957, except those shares sold to US Automotive Corp. in 1985, those converted to treasury shares in 1986, and those sold to the general public at public offerings.

Presently, HMHMI claims to still own 37 percent of Bulletin shares worth about P37.6 million. Aside from Bulletin shares, HMHMI has about P275 million in funds frozen by the BSP.

On Feb. 12, 1987, the PCGG issued Sequestration Writ No. 87-0206 against all shares of stocks, assets, properties, records and documents of HMHMI.

On Feb. 17, 1987, the Central Bank of the Philippines instructed commercial banks and non-bank financial institutions to withhold the withdrawal of funds and assets of HMHMI and Liwayway.

The PCGG also filed a complaint for reconveyance against Montecillo, Cojuangco, Zalamea and the Marcoses on July 29, 1987, and a second amended complaint naming specifically the estate of Menzi as on of the defendants on Oct. 17, 1990.

This prompted the Menzi estate, on behalf of HMHMI, to file with the Sandiganbayan a motion to lift the freeze order.

It contended that the freeze order was made without any judicial action filed against it or without impleading it as a defendant in the said civil case.

Reconsideration

It also claimed that the PCGG issued the writ without filing a sequestration action against HMHMI within the reglementary period established by Section 26, Article 18 of the Constitution.

Acting on Menzi's motion, the Sandiganbayan on April 2, 1992 sided with HMHMI and voided the writ. The PCGG sought reconsideration, which was junked by the court in October of the same year.

Unperturbed, the PCGG elevated the case to the high court by filing a petition for review assailing the Sandiganbayan resolution.

After three years, the Supreme Court reversed the Sandiganbayan resolution (which lifted the freeze order) and remanded the case to the Sandiganbayan.

The Supreme Court ordered the Sandiganbayan to resolve whether there was a "prima facie" factual basis for the PCGG's writ of sequestration.

In 1998, the Sandiganbayan eventually ruled against the PCGG, saying there was no "prima facie" factual basis for the writ's issuance.

A motion for reconsideration filed by the PCGG was subsequently junked by the Sandiganbayan on Aug. 21, 1998.

In its decision, the Supreme Court denied the petition of the PCGG to nullify the Sandigan ruling.

The SC said it "is well-settled that the appellate jurisdiction of the Supreme Court over decisions or final orders of the Sandiganbayan is limited to questions of law."

The high court also stressed that the petition failed to show that the Sandiganbayan gravely abused its discretion in lifting the writ.

It then directed the Sandiganbayan to proceed with the final disposition of Civil Case No. 0022. "The Sandiganbayan must complete the trial stage in six months . . . and decide the case within 3 months."

Love stories and more

From page A1

missives received on Valentine's Day were sent by people to themselves "to save face on the dreaded V-day," according to a survey released by online retailer amazon.co.uk last week.

Amazon, which surveyed more than 1,000 people in Britain, France and Germany, also found that one in three Valentine cards was received by a parent and one person in 10 admitted to stealing a card from a sibling or housemate.

Amazon said Germans were the least romantic, with 69 percent saying Valentine's Day was unimportant, compared to 54 percent of Britons and 46 percent of French.

Germans were also the most likely to forget to give their partners a present while the French spent the most on their loved ones.

One in three French lovers spent between $42 and $84 on a gift, and 11 percent spent more than $84.

The most common romantic gift in Britain and Germany was flowers. The French were more likely to opt for a romantic dinner or other surprise at home.

And for those who don't have a Valentine yet, British sex shop Ann Summers has compiled a chat-up guide to ensure no one has to spend alone the year's most romantic day.

A poll of 5,000 Ann Summers customers came up with lines like: "You, me, whipped cream, handcuffs, any questions?" and "Hi, I'm Mr. Right, someone said you were looking for me."

Sharks, too

In Birmingham, England, scientists are using the music of Barry White to get 10 resolute celibates in the mood for love.

But the celibates aren't people, they're sharks at the National Sea Life Center.

"Can't get enough of your love, babe" and "You're my first, my last, my everything," has been blasting out of the center's loudspeakers directed at 10 tope sharks—five male, five female.

The center's staff was impressed by research of US scientists showing that fish could identify different types of music and be affected by them, curator Josie Sutherland said on Tuesday.

"We're hoping that the music will tempt them into feeling more romantic," Sutherland said.

Researchers at the Rowland Institute for Science in Cambridge, Massachusetts, tested various sounds on koi carp and found that music relaxed them and put them in the mood to breed.

"We think it might work on tope, which are a bit more intelligent," said Sutherland.

After the first blast of Barry White, she said, the tope "did seem to be a bit more excited and chased each other round the tank."

But there were no signs of breeding yet.

"We'll know if they are likely to mate as the male chases the female and tries to bite her back and pectoral fins in the early stages of courtship," Sutherland said.

The tope sharks swim in an 800,000-liter tank with dogfish and starry smooth hound fish, which have already bred successfully at the center.

So far, the music is only being piped into the visitor tunnel that surrounds the tank.

"But if we have to, we'll get an underwater speaker and do it that way," Sutherland said. ***Reuters, AP***

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Tyson wins, gets license

ATLANTA-Mike Tyson has been licensed to fight in Georgia, putting the Georgia Dome into the running as a site for his heavyweight title fight with Lennox Lewis. The fight is still being shopped to several cities, though, and both the site and date of the bout are in question. Georgia's top boxing administrator said Tyson received a license last week for a possible bout in Atlanta on June 8. *AP*

SPORTS

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SPORTS ON TV

Compiled by Lorenzo Manguiat

BASKETBALL: US NCAA - Georgia Tech vs Maryland at 1 p.m. on ESPN NBA – Dallas Mavericks vs Portland Trailblazers at 10 p.m. on NBN 4

BASEBALL: MLB World Series - New York Yankees vs Arizona Diamondbacks, Game #7 at 8:30 p.m. (r) on ESPN

POOL: Rack 'Em Up - Francisco Bustamante vs Radoslaw Babica at 7 p.m. on ESPN

NARVASA SURPRISE

Supreme Court bars American coaches

By June Navarro

THE BASKETBALL Coaches Association of the Philippines yesterday revealed a Supreme Court decision that would eventually stop Talk N Text from designating American Bill Bayno as head coach of the Phone Pals.

BCAP president Chito Narvasa furnished the INQUIRER a copy of the 1991 SC ruling barring foreigners from calling the shots for any PBA squad.

In a decision penned by former Justice Florentino Feliciano, the Supreme Court prohibited American coach Tim Cone from further exercising his coaching chores for Alaska Milk based on the charges brought up by the BCAP.

It was concurred in by former SC chief justice Marcelo Fernan and current chief justice Hilario Davide, among others.

But the Alaska management got off the hook when it said Cone was already married to a Filipina for seven years before the SC ruling came out.

"But that cannot be said of Bayno. We are not bluffing. The BCAP's stand to block the appointment of Bayno stands on solid ground. Talk N Text must now contend with the laws of the land," said Narvasa.

Narvasa advised Talk N Text to let Bayno act as consultant for the Phone Pals.

"Bayno could function as consultant and still be a part of the coaching staff but never will he be able to take the head coaching job," said Narvasa.

In 1998, Ron Jacobs was relegated from head coach to consultant of San Miguel Beer after a Department of Labor ruling banned the American from coaching the Beermen.

Talk N Text team manager Frankie Lim expressed confidence that Bayno would secure a work permit before the Phone Pals see action on Saturday.

"I suggest they (Talk N Text officials) follow the same program adopted by San Miguel because the BCAP will block the appointment of Bayno no matter what happens," said Narvasa.

Selecta plays SMB sans Clay

Game Today (Makati Coliseum)
6 p.m.—SMB vs Selecta

SELECTA-RP TEAM carries a slight handicap when it battles San Miguel Beer today as Fil-Americans Jimmy Alapag, Chris Clay and Jeffrey Flowers were barred from playing in the PBA Samsung Governors Cup pending the submission of their Department of Justice confirmation papers.

But the Nationals are expected to give the Beermen a good fight in the lone PBA encounter beginning at 6 p.m. at the Makati Coliseum.

PBA superstars Kenneth Duremdes, Asi Taulava, Eric Menk, Olsen Racela and Poch Juinio will take the lead roles for the Selecta RP Team.

PBA Commissioner Jun Bernardino and Asian Games national coach Jong Uichico earlier agreed not to use players who have not secured DOJ confirmation papers.

The Commissioner's Office has given Alapag, Clay and Flowers until today to obtain the DOJ clearance before it could render the Fil-American cagers ineligible to play against San Miguel.

"It would be foolhardy to make them play now and then later learn that their papers won't be available by the time the Asian Games nears, that would just totally disrupt the preparations being undertaken by coach Jong (Uichico)," said Bernardino.

Among the three, Alapag has the greatest chance of playing for Selecta as his papers were now reportedly on the desk of Justice Secretary Hernando Perez.

The supporting cast of Ali Peek, Dennis Espino, Dondon Hontiveros, Chris Jackson, Patrick Fran and rookies Rafi Reavis and Christian Calaguio, however, has enough firepower to annihiliate the Beermen on the floor.

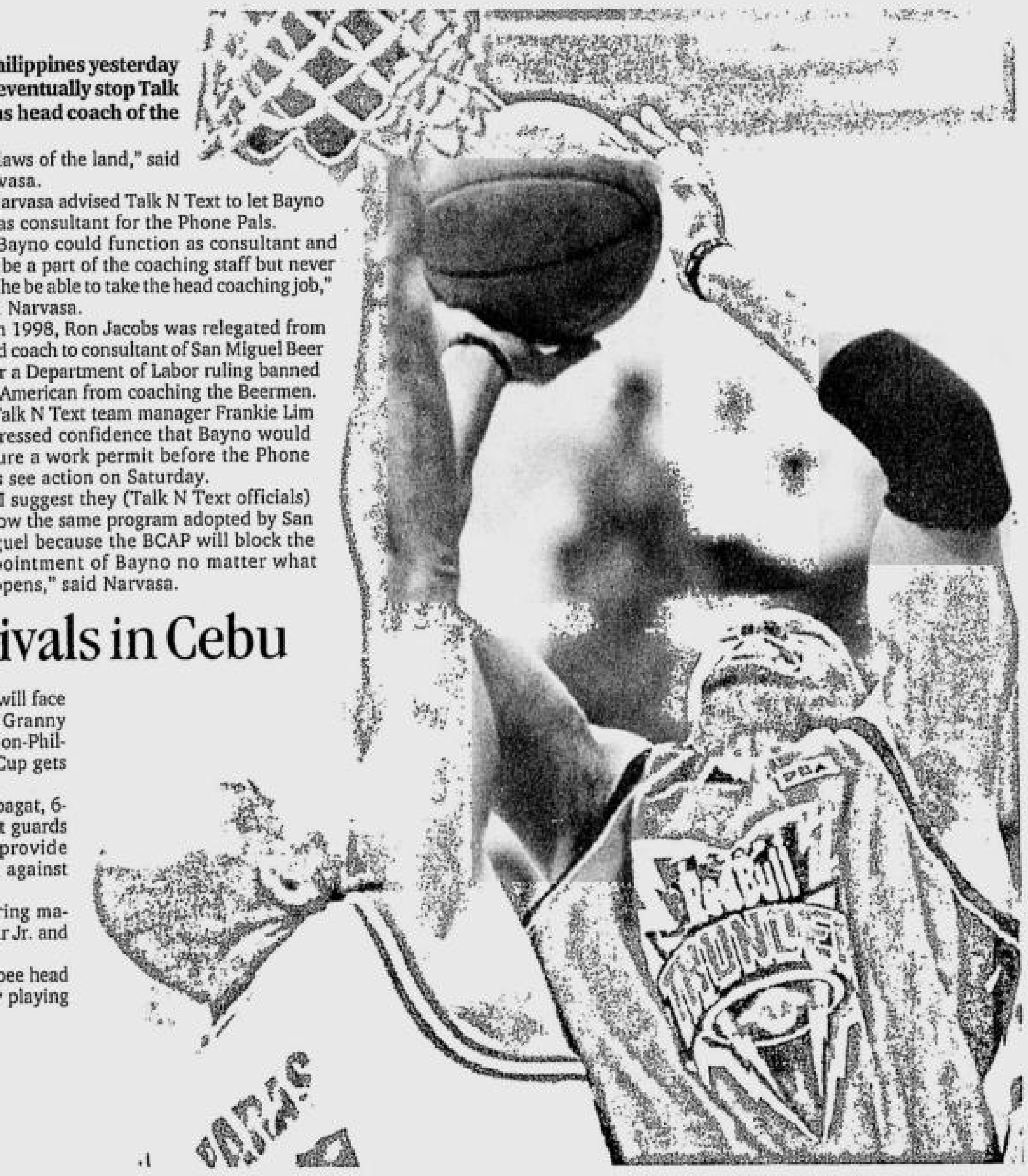
Blu to face tough rivals in Cebu

PBL teams Blu Detergent and Montaña Pawnshop will face stiff competition against Hapee Toothpaste and Granny Goose Tortillos when the Cebu Basketball Federation-Philippine Basketball League (CBF-PBL) Partnership Cup gets going tomorrow at the Cebu Coliseum.

Former PBL players Joel Bona, 6-foot-4 Nick Jabagat, 6-foot-3 Leody Garcia, Gabriel Maloloy-on and point guards Christophel Abellana and Orly Alvarado will provide Hapee-Cebu with the needed experience playing against their Manila opponents.

But much of its firepower will come from scoring machines Rommel David, Jun Peter Simon, Romeo Clar Jr. and Neil Raneses.

"We'll try to see what our chances are," said Hapee head coach Hermes Sumalinog, who will be assisted by playing assistant Rudy Enterina.



RED BULL'S Joe Bunn (right) scores over Shell's Benjie Paras during the PBA Governors Cup inaugural at the Araneta Coliseum on Tuesday. Red Bull won, 94-81.

ROMY HOMILLADA

Airfreight, US team ink deal

AIRFREIGHT 2100, the sole licensee of Federal Express in the Philippines and owner of the Express team in the Philippine Basketball Association, yesterday forged a partnership with 2001 United States Basketball League champion Pennsylvania, assuring both teams of an efficient transfer of players, coaches and technology.

Under the partnership, the Pennsylvania Valleydawgs, who are coached by NBA legend Darryl "Chocolate Thunder" Dawkins, will undergo an exchange program with the Express involving their players and coaches.

This will help Valleydawg players land lucrative playing jobs in Asia's premier basketball league and the Express players gain experience and exposure in the US subject to approval by the PBA.

Airfreight 2100 Chair Bert Lina said that such an alliance is a welcome development not only for the Express team but to Philippine basketball in general.

"This will help the PBA get a chance to play in the US. Our players will gain tremendous experience playing in the USBL, because it is one step below the NBA. Who knows, we might be producing here the first ever Filipino player in the NBA?" said Lina.

Express president Lito Alvarez said that with the pact, the team will have an easier access to the top players of the USBL, which produced the likes of Manute Bol, Anthony Mason and Charlie Ward.

"We will be using the Valleydawgs as a farm team. This is the first time a Philippine professional basketball franchise will have one of its own farm team," said Alvarez. "I talked to Mr. Dawkins on the phone and he was very positive of this partnership."

SY

Sy strays into horseracing

AFTER making a big name in basketball as PBL chair, DSS Productmakers Inc. CEO Dioceldo Sy is venturing into another field of sports: horseracing.

Sy, owner of both Blu Detergent and Shark Energy Drink, recently teamed up with Ana Freezer team owner Rudy Mendoza and son Paolo as co-owner of multi-titled Batangas Entry.

Batangas Entry is a four-year-old which won the Mitra Cup last year. Sy said that he and the Mendozas expect Batangas Entry as a strong title contender in the 1st Gentleman's Cup set Feb. 24 at the Sta. Ana Race Park.

"*Na*-influence *ako ni* Rudy (Mendoza) and I believe this is a worthwhile venture *dahil magaling na kabayo itong* Batangas Entry," Sy replied.

"*Nakahiligan ko na rin,* exciting *rin pala ang* horseracing like basketball. *Iba rin ang* thrill."

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Kitefest 2002

FLIGHT UPDATES

THE BEST OF CABANATUAN:

ELEMENTARY DIVISION - FLAT KITE CATEGORY		
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2nd Prize	Albert Rivera	Ibon
3rd Prize	Riza Martin	The Lonely Hearts
HIGH SCHOOL DIVISION - FLAT KITE CATEGORY		
1st Prize	Elbert Mendoza	Lamok
2nd Prize	Alvin Cajulao	Ibon Sa Paraiso
3rd Prize	Ryan De Guzman	Batman
COLLEGE DIVISION - GEOMETRIC KITE CATEGORY		
1st Prize	Wilma Cajulao	Love Box
2nd Prize	Rodjie Vicera	Eye Tweeler Box
3rd Prize	Joseph Gueco	Raising Sun And The Rainbow Tail
ADULTS DIVISION - GEOMETRIC KITE CATEGORY		
1st Prize	Arnold Dionisio	Sky Eagle
2nd Prize	Rebecca Martin	Delta Della
3rd Prize	Rosendo Gutierrez	MS 11
COLLEGE DIVISION - FIGURE KITE CATEGORY		
1st Prize	Joseph Gueco	Jurassic Dragon
2nd Prize	Eugene Mallari	Lucas The King Of The Spirit
3rd Prize	Aldrin Gomez	Kabayo Of Taon
ADULTS DIVISION - FIGURE KITE CATEGORY		
1st Prize	Noel Gueco	Arabia Stallion
2nd Prize	Floy Calahan	Flying Frog
3rd Prize	Fernando Cajulao	Phoenix
SARANGGOLA NI BEAR BRAND		
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Adults	Apolinario Valdez	Philippine Airlines
SUPERKITE AWARD		
	Edgar Cano	Tutubing Karayom

Watch out for BEAR BRAND Kitefest 2002! Happening next at the Leyte Sports Complex (Grandstand), Tacloban City on February 24, 2002.

SPORTSWATCH

Pangasinan Waves to hold 3-day tryouts

THE PANGASINAN Waves will be holding a three-day tryout for their return to the Metropolitan Basketball Association this season. Coach Lawrence Chongson will conduct the tryouts Monday-Wednesday starting at 1 p.m. at the Tanduay Gym in Quiapo, Manila. Chongson is a former assistant coach and consultant to the Tanduay Rhummakers, who recently sold their PBA franchise to the FedEx Express. The Waves, co-owned by Tim Orbos, are returning to the MBA after missing the last two seasons. Chongson said they would prefer players with roots in Pangasinan. Pangasinan is in the Northern Conference with reigning national titlist LBC Batangas, Pampanga, another returning team, and newcomer Olongapo. Composing the Southern Conference are RCPI-Negros, Cebuana Lhuillier, TPG-Davao and Cagayan de Oro, also returning after a two-year absence.

PMA Class Struggle golfest set Feb. 16

THE "PMA Class Struggle" 2002 Golf Tournament tees off at the Camp John Hay Golf Course at 6 a.m. on Saturday, Feb. 16, as part of the 3-day homecoming activities of the PMA Alumni on Feb. 15-17, 2002 at Fort del Pilar, Baguio City. The tournament will be participated in by top brass of the Armed Forces led by PMA Supt. Maj. Gen. Rufo De Veyra, PMA Alumni from the private and corporate sectors, and Alumni golf enthusiasts from the Army, Navy, Air Force and the National Police. Fabulous prizes are at stake for the winners. Registration fee is P5,500, which includes a raffle stub for tokens and prizes. Proceeds for the "Class Struggle" Golf Tournament will be utilized for the improvement of facilities of the PMA Center for Physical Fitness and Sports Development. Meanwhile, the highlight of the Alumni Homecoming activity is capped by the Grand Alumni Parade and Testimonial of the Flag on Feb. 17, with Secretary of National Defense Angelo T. Reyes as guest of honor and speaker.

RP chessers 3rd; Senador shining individually

Standings after Round 8: Pavlodar (Kazakhstan) 27.5 pts.; Namangan (Uzbekistan) 22; Manila (Philippines) 21.5; Jakarta (Indonesia), Tehran (Iran) 17.5; Delhi (India); Doha (Qatar), Kuala Lumpur (Malaysia) 16.5; Baghdad (Iraq) 16. THE PHILIPPINES showed its might with a 3.5:0.5 win over Iraq Tuesday in the Asian Cities Chess Team Championship in Aden, Yemen, to retain its third place position in the 18-team field. Grandmasters Eugene Torre, Bong Villamayor and NM Emmanuel Senador provided the full points with victories over Baghdad's Mahdi Atia, IM hayder Abdul Hani and Amjad Ali, respectively while GM Joey Antonio drew with IM Aziz Ahmad. The four-man squad, who are playing without any relief, had amassed a total of 21.5 points after eight rounds to stay behind the second-running Uzbekistan by a mere half point. Torre and company will meet Malaysia in today's final round. In the race for individual honors, Senador maintained his clean slate of six wins and two draws to emerge the team's highest pointer and second best scorer among the players on board 4. He will also try to overtake Hatim Al Hadarani of Taiz (Yemen) who has a perfect score of six points out of six games.

Ballroom dancing tomorrow at DanceworX

THE COUNTRY'S dancesports and ballroom experts will be featured in DanceworX's post-Valentine's show tomorrow at GameworX Inc., 4th level of Festival Supermart, Filinvest Alabang, Muntinlupa City. Dubbed "Passion Express," the event, slated from 7:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., is DanceworX's offering to its loyal patrons. "We would like to invite everyone to come and visit us here at GameworX for our post-Valentine's presentation. Come and see some of today's best ballroom dancers in the land," said Christian Datol, marketing OIC. Tickets are available at the GameworX entrance. Entry fee is P500 per person, covering show and dancing.

Bagging Bayno

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

THE PLOT thickens goes the cliché.

I refer to the case of Bill Bayno, the American wanting to coach PBA team Talk N Text.

Or is it the other way around? Talk N Text wanting Bayno to coach the Phone Pals?

Talk N Text wanting to bag Bayno at all costs is really something. Is Bayno that good a coach?

Chito Narvasa, the feisty president of the Basketball Coaches Association of the Philippines, said he has found a bomb that should bar Bayno from coaching Talk N Text. The bomb is in the form of a 1991 Supreme Court ruling barring American Tim Cone from coaching Alaska (See related story). But Alaska still wound up with Cone because Cone, being married to a Filipina, was not covered by the SC decision. Ron Jacobs got sideswiped, though, as he has no Filipina for a wife; Jacobs ended up being San Miguel Beer coaching consultant.

Talked to Frankie Lim a while back. He said Bayno would coach Talk N Text "because we believe we are on the side of the law." The Talk N Text manager said they were confident they could produce the work permit for Bayno before they plunge into action on Saturday.

I can believe that. Talk N Text will not be foolish as to risk its reputation by allowing Bayno to coach minus a work permit from the Department of Labor and Employment. That'd be like tossing Bayno into a lion's den.

If Bayno gets the permit as envisioned by Lim, will Narvasa raise hell?

I guess, yes. But Narvasa's target will not be Bayno anymore but the DOLE. A work permit will automatically get Bayno off the hook, even if only temporarily.

Indeed, the plot thickens.

Lakers subdue Wizards

BRYANT: Third career triple-double.

LOS ANGELES--Kobe Bryant had his third career triple-double with 23 points, 11 rebounds and a career-high 15 assists as Los Angeles rallied to snap Washington's five-game winning streak, 103-94.

The Lakers took command by outscoring the Wizards 43-11 to turn a 63-43 deficit with 7:50 left in the third quarter into an 86-74 lead with 8:03 remaining in the fourth.

Michael Jordan, playing against coach Phil Jackson for the first time, led the Wizards with 22 points, five rebounds and six assists.

Derek Fisher added 16 points and Lindsey Hunter scored 13 for the Lakers.

Mavericks 112, SuperSonics 106

In Seattle, Steve Nash scored 28 points, including five 3-pointers, and the Dallas Mavericks won their franchise-record eighth straight road game.

Nash had 15 points and went 4-for-4 from 3-point range in the opening quarter when the Mavericks shot 72.7 percent (16-for-22) and scored 39 points.

Juwan Howard and Dirk Nowitzki each had 21 points for Dallas.

Gary Payton scored 10 of his 17 points in the final quarter, but it wasn't enough to prevent the Sonics' fourth loss in their last five home games. Rashard Lewis scored 25 points and Brent Barry 20 for Seattle.

COMPLETE RESULTS

Utah 98, Indiana 82; Cleveland 99, Toronto 81; Atlanta 105, New Jersey 103; Phoenix 99, Detroit 71; Orlando 122, New York 114; Chicago 96, Milwaukee 92; Houston 85, Memphis 78; Boston 110, Denver 93; Dallas 112, Seattle 106; Sacramento 99, San Antonio 86; L.A. Lakers 103, Washington 94.

BLAST FROM THE PAST

TODAY in 1990, Frankie Miñoza fired a 4-under-par 68 to score a one-stroke victory over American Scott Taylor in the Magnolia Pro-Am championship at Wack Wack.

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Letran nears crown

LETRAN College moved to within a win of retaining the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) seniors title following a 3-0 decision over Mapua Institute of Technology yesterday at the Rizal Memorial Tennis Center.

The Knights of Jun Grecia banked on Menandro Econg's 6-4, 6-3 victory over Raffy Santiago in the fist singles, Chemiel Mantua and Von Ruelan's 6-1, 7-5 win over Flint Almiron and Santiago in the doubles and Mantua's 8-0 rout of Almiron to notch their second straight win in the semifinal round. Letran, which topped the first round with a 6-0 slate, will shoot for the title against San Sebastian College on Feb. 19.

POC to fund athletes' training

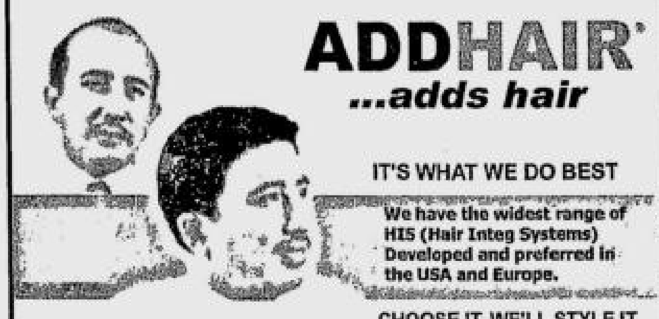
DAYRIT

FOR the first time ever, the Philippine Olympic Committee will get involved with the training of selected Filipino athletes in preparation for the Asian Games to be held Sept. 29-Oct. 14 in Busan, South Korea.

POC president Celso L. Dayrit announced yesterday that the International Olympic Solidarity has approved POC's request for financial assistance to bankroll the training of nine individual athletes from six sports.

The athletes, who were recommended by their respective national sports associations, are Purita Joy Marino, archery; Eduardo Buenavista, John Lozada and Christabel Martes, athletics; Walberto Mendoza, fencing; John Baylon, judo; Roberto Cruz and Veronica Domingo, taekwondo; and Rasheya Jasmin Luis, shooting.

The International Olympic Solidarity has approved $70,000 (P3.6M) for the POC, higher than what it granted to most other countries.



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Ivan tops scooter tilt

IVAN Santiago underscored his billing as one of the country's top scooter riders when he bagged three titles in the recent Mandaluyong Mayor Benhur Abalos Cup scooter competition at the Liberty Center in Mandaluyong City.

Santiago dominated the 90cc, 70cc and Yamaha 50cc categories and finished runner-up in the expert class to emerge as the winningest rider in the one-day event organized by the E.L. Racing Tech and YRS Motorcycle Modification and sponsored by Shell Advance Motorcycle Oil.

He also finished a close second to Edwin Buenaventura in the expert category.

The victories installed Santiago as one of the top favorites in the coming Shell Advance Super Scooter Championships, which come off the wraps at the Carmona Racing Circuit in Cavite next month.

Mayor Abalos awarded the trophies to the winners, along with motocross champion Ernie Leongson of E.L. Racing Tech and Gregorio "Yoyong" Buncio of YRS.

The other notable winners were Chito Barcenas, (Force 1 category); Alex de Ocampo, (Honda 50cc); Dan Alfaro, (All-Mandaluyong Executive Open); and Toni Antonio, (All-Mandaluyong 70cc.)

RACING TIPS

At San Lazaro By Mr. 999

Race 1—1. May's Magic 2. Ocean Menary 3. Majestic Ruler 4. Cruiser
Race 2—1. Noble House 2. Il Amorosa 3. Winter's Fury 4. Empire Girl 5. Kentucky Gold 6. Kitty Bang Bang
Race 3—1. Playing With Fire 2. Dixie Dancer 3. High Pocket
Race 4—1. Air Express 2. Haz It All 3. Lavish Feast 4. Real Material 5. Fortius
Race 5—1. Snowy Market 2. Sweep Away 3. Golden Quest 4. Talk To Patsy
Race 6—1. Counter Strike 2. Rosewood 3. Real Dancer 4. Selectee 5. Green Buck 6. Silver Lining
Race 7—1. The Mailman 2. Arresbee 3. Lucky El 4. Power Corrupts 5. Bull Strike
Race 8—1. Profit Margin 2. Turkish Delight 3. Nagniningning 4. Cristel Jay
Race 9—1. Grand Prize 2. Time For Miracles 3. Moving Target/Courage Heart 4. Flying Fortress/ Half Moon Princess 5. Standout 6. Opening Prospect

Motorcycle trek over

IN LINE with its objective to promote tourism and sports development through the use of motorcycles, Norkis-Yamaha hosted a four-day motorcycle adventure from Mandaluyong City to Sagada, Mt. Province recently.

An annual undertaking of Norkis-Yamaha in cooperation with YRS Motorcycle Modification and Shell Advance, the unique motorcycle adventure culminated with a successful ascent to one of the country's highest peak in Sagada.

Twenty-seven riders, led by seven-time motocross champion Jovie Saulog of Shell-Yamaha Racing Team and well-known movie stars Ian Veneracion and Monsour del Rosario, participated in the prestigious event.

"We're very happy with the results of the four-day activity, which also brought us to various cities and municipalities like Baguio and Nueva Viscaya," said Norkis-Yamaha vice president for marketing Manuel "Boy" Albos.

"And we are elated by the enthusiastic response of the people of all the places we visited," added Albos.

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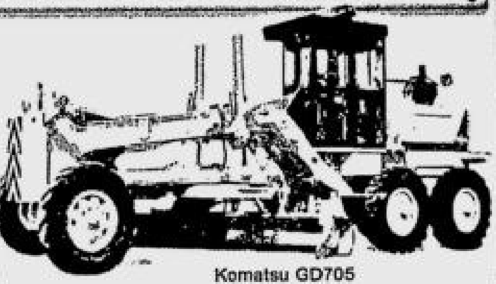

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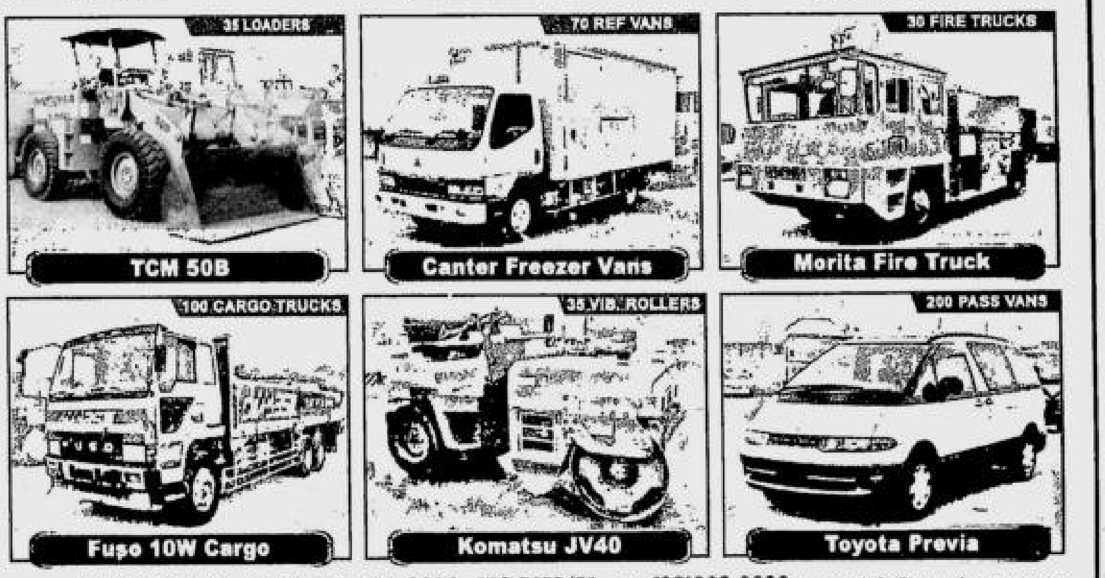

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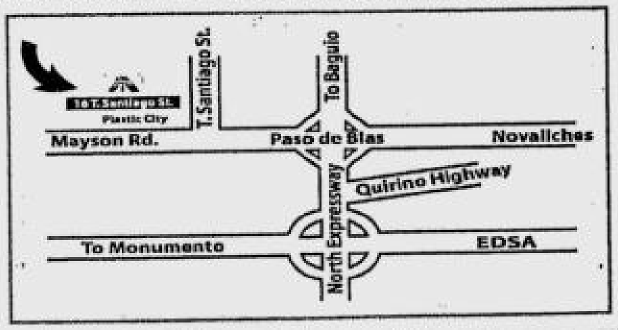

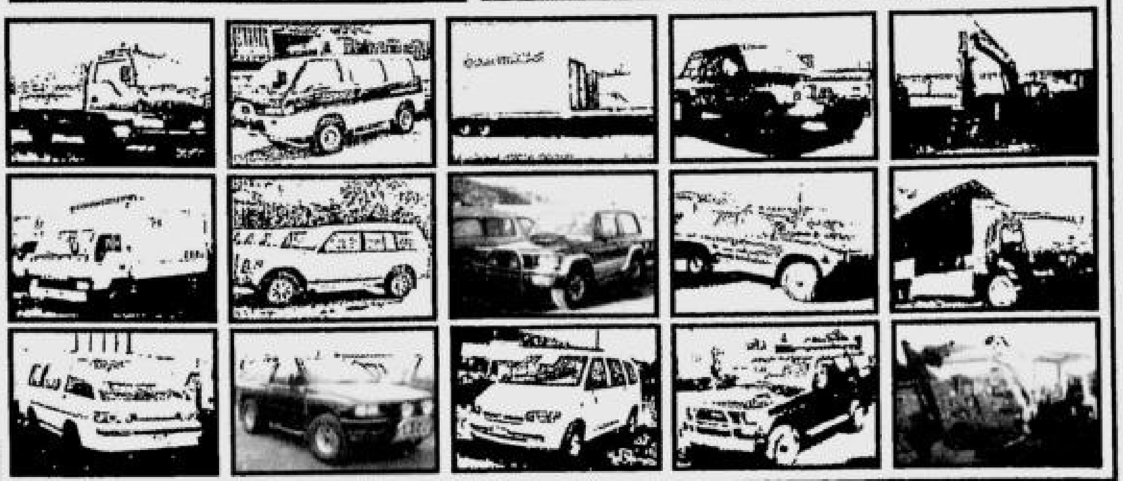

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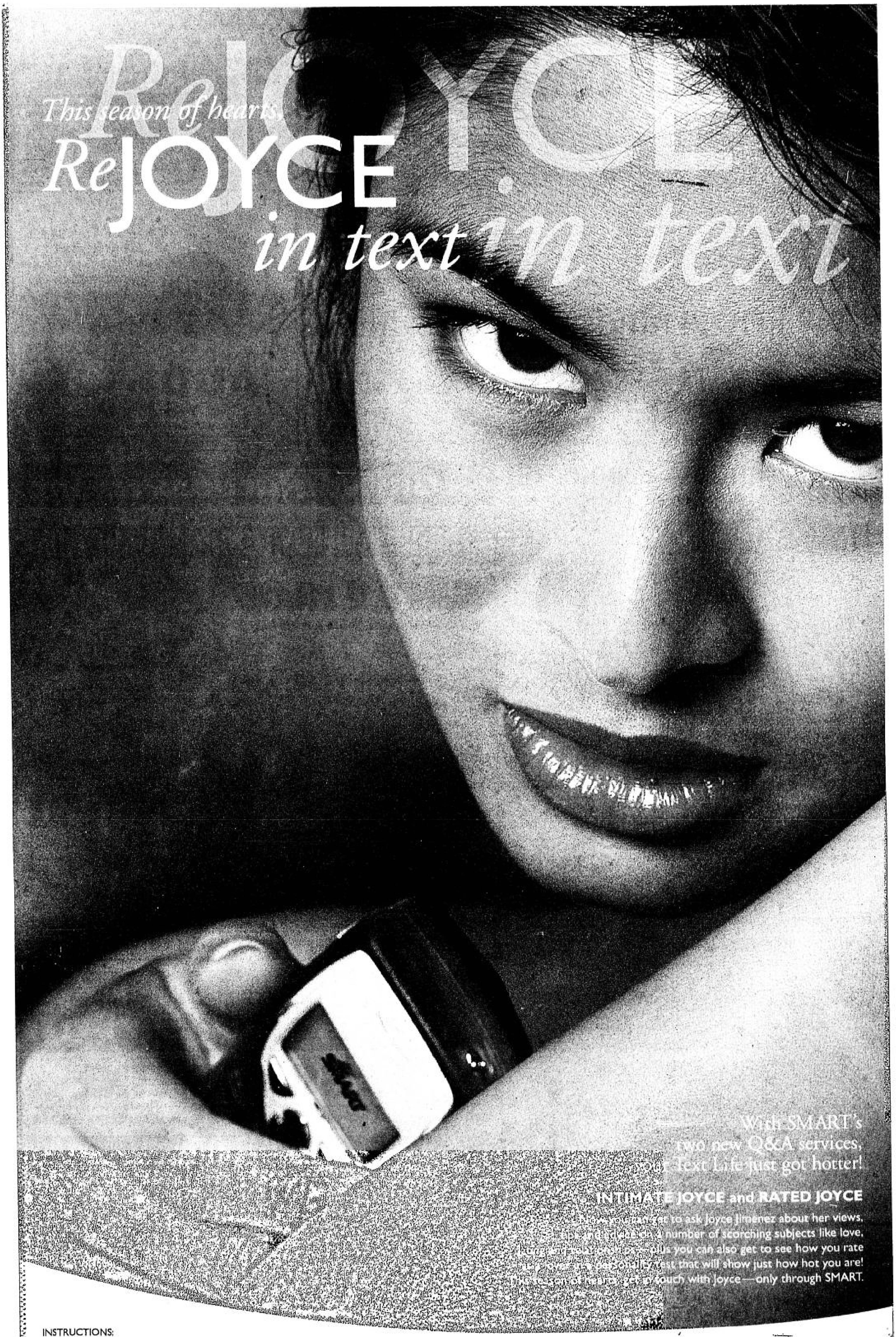

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INSTRUCTIONS:

Intimate JOYCE

Lets you ask Joyce her views and/or tips on a variety of topics like: Love, Dating, Sex, etc.

- **To begin**, key in **ASK <topic> M** (for male) or **F** (for female) and send it to **241**

Ex: *Joyce: Love is a choice and a commitment.*

Topics: *Love, Sex, Dating, Relationships (keyword REL) and Health.*

All information requests sent will be charged ₱2.50 each.

Rated JOYCE

A personality test where you will find out how you rate as a lover in Joyce's eyes.

- **To begin**, key in **QUIZ** and send it to **241**

You will then receive the first of 10 multiple-choice questions.

QUIZ

Ex: *You like to kiss with your eyes:*
A.) open—like to watch B.) closed—afraid to look C.) closed—more romantic

- **To answer**, key in **QUIZ <the letter of your answer>** and send it to **241**

You will then receive the next multiple-choice question. After answering the last question, you will receive a message with your rate as a lover from Joyce.

Ex: *30 Joyce says: you're a perfect lover!*

PERSONALIZED GREETINGS

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METRO
Editor Louie C. Camino

Happy Valentine's Day

OVER 200 couples, love-struck or not, will be wed today in Muntinlupa by Mayor Jaime Fresnedi as a special Valentine's treat by the city government to unwed lovers. Fresnedi will officiate the "City Mass Wedding 2002" ceremony at 3 p.m. at the city hall quadrangle. Special awards will be given to the eldest bride and groom. Other awards which will be presented include early birds couple, most romantic pair, and best dressed couple.

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WPD in uproar

By Jerome Aning

NOW, it is the lawmen's turn to cry "harassment" after a member of the Western Police District was taken off his post, allegedly for questioning the transfer to the provinces of Manila policemen who were absent, tardy or were caught wearing improper uniform during formations.

Officials of the Manila's Finest Brotherhood Association, made up of non-commissioned officers of the WPD, held an emergency meeting yesterday morning and denounced the transfer of their vice president, SPO1 Antonio Emmanuel.

MFBA members also expressed their "full support" for Emmanuel, whom they said was being punished for upholding the welfare of Manila policemen.

According to SPO1 Virgo Villareal, MFBA public relations officer, Emmanuel's reassignment caused an uproar in the WPD.

Emmanuel was transferred to the Makati City traffic police the other day by his superior, Traffic Enforcement Group commander Col. Joselito Maralit, who said Emmanuel will remain in his new post "until the matter is settled."

Emmanuel reportedly earned the ire of National Capital Regional Police Office Director Edgardo Aglipay when he implied that the latter "lied" over a National Police Commission memo stopping the transfer of policemen.

The MFBA vice president later said he was merely "misquoted" in the reports that came out concerning the transfers.

Villareal said Emmanuel's transfer is "questionable" because there is no specific case or administrative complaint against the latter.

"How can the matter be settled soon if he is moved far from WPD and placed in a 'freezer'?" Villareal told the Inquirer.

MFBA officials are also wondering how Emmanuel can continue his duties as vice president of the MFBA, and in protesting the transfer of WPD personnel to distant police outposts.

The MFBA is composed of some 3,000 WPD personnel with the rank of Senior Police Officer 4 and below.

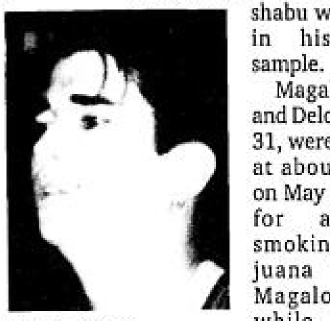
"Policemen too have the right to enjoy freedom of association and expression," Villareal said. "Our group was not formed to quarrel with our superiors, but to look into the concerns of our members."

The MFBA also called on Aglipay to comply with the Jan. 31 Napolcom order halting all

WPD A22

Francis M. clear

By Agnes E. Donato



MAGALONA

RAP artist and former television show host Francis Magalona was found negative for both marijuana and shabu in a drug test taken a few hours after he and a companion were arrested for alleged possession of illegal drugs in New Manila, Quezon City last year.

Magalona's lawyers presented the results of the test as evidence in a hearing yesterday to dispel police allegations that the former MTV VJ was smoking dope shortly before his arrest last May 29.

The hearing was held at the Quezon City Regional Trial Court Branch 95. Magalona was present at the hearing.

The same chemistry report from the Central Police District Laboratory Office however showed that Magalona's companion, Alfredo delos Delos Santos, was positive for use of marijuana even if no residue of shabu was found in his urine sample.

Magalona, 36, and Delos Santos, 31, were arrested at about 6 p.m. on May 29, 2001 for allegedly smoking marijuana in Magalona's car while it was parked on a street in New Manila, Quezon City. Magalona, who was driving the car, tried to drive away but the two were arrested after a brief car chase. The morning after their arrest, they were subjected to a drug test.

CPD chemistry section chief Senior Insp. Grace Eustaquio testified that marijuana takes longer to be flushed from a user's body than methamphetamine hydrochloride, or shabu, which she said remains in the user's body for a maximum of three days after it was introduced to the person's system.

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CONPINCO TRADING VISMIN

Angry client stabs SSS legal counsel

A LEGAL counsel of the Social Security System was stabbed yesterday by a 61-year-old claimant who went berserk after the SSS refused to transfer to him the retirement benefits of his brother.

Victim Joselito Bibit sustained a stab wound on the chest and is now confined at the East Avenue Medical Center.

Suspect Rodolfo Henares, of Constancia Street, Sampaloc, Manila, stabbed himself twice in the body after realizing what he had done to the victim. He received medication in the same hospital.

Henares reported to the SSS legal department on East Avenue, Quezon City at about 11:30 a.m. yesterday to inquire how the benefits of his brother could be transferred to him.

The assailant's brother, Arturo, 53, is reportedly a ceramics trader formerly connected with the SGV Corporation and is now based in California, USA.

Bibit, who was assigned to give legal advice to Henares, told the suspect that the transfer could not be done as only the contributor himself or his immediate heir could claim his benefits.

It was learned that Arturo named his wife,

ANGRY A22

WAZZZZUP ?
ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

8th day St. Francis Sq. Ortigas Ctr.	PIDO W/ TAKE 1	P500 GOOD FOR 2 COMPLETE SET OF DINNER W/ WINE ☎634.7696/98
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Music Bar & Restaurant	ARCHIE & BERNIE FAT SESSION/MIRIAM PANTIG	P44 BEER ☎373.3333
KAMPO 2000	AEGIS NEXT PAGE	LIMITED EDITION ☎373.5110
TIA MARIA'S JUPITER ST., MAKATI CITY	ON LINE D'BUMP/INTENSITY 8	GROOVE FEB. 28 ☎890.4735
TIA MARIA'S	ENIGMA VERSE 2/TAFT AVE	☎522-0429
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SM CINEMA

SM Dial-A-Movie Tel. 633-9999
NOW SHOWING

SM CITY BACOOR
4173869

1 HALIK SA AKING LUPA
2 RIDING IN CARS
3 COLLATERAL DAMAGE
4 VANILLA SKY
5 BLACK HAWK DOWN
6 IKAW LAMANG . . .
7 ISANG PANAGINIP
8 KATE & LEOPOLD

SM CENTERPOINT
7140522 -7161416

1 IKAW LAMANG . . .
2 RIDING IN CARS
3 COLLATERAL DAMAGE
4 OCEAN'S ELEVEN
5 COLLATERAL DAMAGE
6 FROM HELL
7 VANILLA SKY
8 BLACK HAWK DOWN
9 KATE & LEOPOLD
10 ISANG PANAGINIP

SM CITY FAIRVIEW
9350749

1 ISANG PANAGINIP
2 BLACK HAWK DOWN
3 COLLATERAL DAMAGE
4 COLLATERAL DAMAGE
5 RIDING IN CARS
6 IKAW LAMANG . . .
7 COLLATERAL DAMAGE
8 VANILLA SKY
9 IKAW LAMANG . . .
10 OCEAN'S ELEVEN
11 KATE & LEOPOLD
12 HALIK SA AKING LUPA

SM CITY MANILA
5239240

1 KATE & LEOPOLD
2 OCEAN'S ELEVEN
3 RIDING IN CARS
4 COLLATERAL DAMAGE
5 FROM HELL
6 VANILLA SKY
7 IKAW LAMANG . . .
8 BLACK HAWK DOWN
9 THE OTHERS
10 COLLATERAL DAMAGE
11 ISANG PANAGINIP
12 IKAW LAMANG . . .

SM MEGAMALL
6331901 • 6329401

1 COLLATERAL DAMAGE
2 VANILLA SKY
3 COLLATERAL DAMAGE
4 BLACK HAWK DOWN
5 RIDING IN CARS
6 PELIKULA AT LIPUNAN
7 OCEAN'S ELEVEN
8 IKAW LAMANG . . .
9 IKAW LAMANG . . .
10 COLLATERAL DAMAGE
11 ISANG PANAGINIP
12 KATE & LEOPOLD

SM CITY NORTH EDSA
9295452

1 RIDING IN CARS
2 BLACK HAWK DOWN
3 IKAW LAMANG . . .
4 IKAW LAMANG . . .
5 KATE & LEOPOLD
6 VANILLA SKY
7 COLLATERAL DAMAGE
8 COLLATERAL DAMAGE
9 HALIK SA AKING LUPA
10 FROM HELL
11 ISANG PANAGINIP
12 OCEAN'S ELEVEN

SM SOUTHMALL
8066782

1 BLACK HAWK DOWN
2 VANILLA SKY
3 COLLATERAL DAMAGE
4 IKAW LAMANG . . .
5 KATE & LEOPOLD
6 HALIK SA AKING LUPA
7 RIDING IN CARS
8 COLLATERAL DAMAGE
9 ISANG PANAGINIP
10 OCEAN'S ELEVEN

SM CITY CEBU
2313876

1 COLLATERAL DAMAGE
2 BLACK HAWK DOWN
3 VANILLA SKY
4 ISANG PANAGINIP
5 LORD OF THE RINGS
6 FINAL ANSWER
7 IKAW LAMANG . . .
8 COLLATERAL DAMAGE

SM CITY ILOILO
3209422

1 FINAL ANSWER
2 CLOSED
3 COLLATERAL DAMAGE
4 LORD OF THE RINGS
5 VANILLA SKY
6 MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA
7 CLOSED
8 BLACK HAWK DOWN

SM CITY PAMPANGA
7128015

1 COLLATERAL DAMAGE
2 BLACK HAWK DOWN
3 VANILLA SKY
4 ISANG PANAGINIP
5 IKAW LAMANG . . .
6 IKAW LAMANG . . .

SM SUPER CTR. SUCAT
8294975

1 ISANG PANAGINIP
2 IKAW LAMANG . . .
3 COLLATERAL DAMAGE
4 VANILLA SKY

SM CINEMA GUADALUPE
8820984

1 HALIK SA AKING LUPA
2 COLLATERAL DAMAGE
3 IKAW LAMANG . . .

SM CINEMA TUTUBAN
2514302

1 COLLATERAL DAMAGE
2 ISANG PANAGINIP
3 IKAW LAMANG . . .
4 IKAW LAMANG . . .

SM CITY DAVAO
2976999

1 BLACK HAWK DOWN
2 MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA
3 VANILLA SKY
4 LORD OF THE RINGS
5 KAULAYAW
6 COLLATERAL DAMAGE

SM BICUTAN

1
2
3
4

SOON TO OPEN!
4 NEW
STATE-OF-THE-ART
VISION & SOUND

SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO

1
2
3
4

SOON TO OPEN!
4 NEW
STATE-OF-THE-ART
VISION & SOUND

THE PODIUM
18 ADB Avenue Ortigas Center Mandaluyong City

1
2

SOON TO OPEN!
2 NEW STATE-OF-THE-ART VISION & SOUND

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Art Film Greenbelt, Feb. 13 to 26

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Feb. 20-22

AYALA CINEMAS

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MOVIE GUIDE

NOW SHOWING
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Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72

1 (DDS) BLACK HAWK DOWN
2 (SDDS) COLLATERAL DAMAGE
3 (DTS) OCEAN'S ELEVEN
4 GOLD (DTS) COLLATERAL DAMAGE
5 GOLD (DOLBY) VANILLA SKY
6 GOLD (SDDS) KATE & LEOPOLD
7 GOLD (DOLBY) RIDING IN CARS
8 IKAW LAMANG . .
9 IKAW LAMANG . .
10 FROM HELL

Pearl Plaza Cinemas
(Parañaque) tel. 853.4486

1 KAULAYAW
2
3 (DTS) COLLATERAL DAMAGE
4
5
6 (DTS)
Golden Pearl THX

Masagana CINEMA
(Pasay) tel 831.6603

1 IKAW LAMANG . .
2 COLLATERAL DAMAGE
3 HALIK SA AKING LUPA

starmall Movies
(Shaw Blvd.) tel 724.4986

1 IKAW LAMANG . . .
2 FROM HELL
3 HALIK SA AKING LUPA
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL) COLLATERAL DAMAGE
5 KAULAYAW

METROPOLIS star
Tel. 850 4285

1 VANILLA SKY
2 ISANG PANAGINIP
3 IKAW LAMANG . . .
4 KAULAYAW
5 KATE & LEOPOLD
6 COLLATERAL DAMAGE
7 RESERVE
8 RESERVE

PREMIERE CINEMA THX
(Makati City) Tel. 7512010 to 13

1 COLLATERAL DAMAGE

Center Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

1 BLACK HAWK DOWN
2 FINAL ANSWER

FCM FAIRVIEW CENTER MALL, INC.
tel 930.9515

1 HALIK SA AKING LUPA
2 IKAW LAMANG . . .
3 COLLATERAL DAMAGE

Spring
(Liberlad, Pasay City) tel 831.7864

1 HALIK SA AKING LUPA
A COLLATERAL DAMAGE

Sunshine
(FTI, Taguig) tel 838.4301 loc. 3376

1 IKAW LAMANG . . .
2 COLLATERAL DAMAGE
3 KAULAYAW
4

GOTESCO CINEMA

City
(Manila) tel 734.8565

1 (DOLBY) COLLATERAL DAMAGE
2
3
4 HALIK SA AKING LUPA
5 FROM HELL
6 IKAW LAMANG . .
7 (DTS) COLLATERAL DAMAGE
8 (SDDS) RIDING IN CARS
9 (DOLBY) VANILLA SKY

Caloocan
tel 362.3508

2 IKAW LAMANG . .

Grand Central
(Caloocan) tel 364.3781

1 IKAW LAMANG . .
2 IKAW LAMANG . . .
3 ISANG PANAGINIP
4 (SDDS) RIDING IN CARS
5 HALIK SA AKING LUPA
6 (DOLBY) COLLATERAL DAMAGE
7 (DTS) COLLATERAL DAMAGE
8 KAULAYAW
9 VANILLA SKY

Commonwealth
tel 951.0083

1 (DTS) COLLATERAL DAMAGE
2 IKAW LAMANG . . .
3 KAULAYAW
4 RIDING IN CARS
5 (SDDS) BLACK HAWK DOWN
6 ISANG PANAGINIP
7 (DOLBY) IKAW LAMANG . . .
8 HALIK SA AKING LUPA

Ortigas
tel 656.6795

1 IKAW LAMANG . . .
2 KAULAYAW
3 (DTS) COLLATERAL DAMAGE
4 HALIK SA AKING LUPA
5 (SDDS) VANILLA SKY

Universal
(Manila) tel 733.2470

1 IKAW LAMANG . .

Sampaguita
(Cubao) tel 911.7888

1 IKAW LAMANG . .

Dilson
(Manila) tel 734.7724

Dilson
Lords
Jennet

MARKETPLACE Mandaluyong
tel 533.3851 / 533.3856

1 IKAW LAMANG . .
2 COLLATERAL DAMAGE
3 HALIK SA AKING LUPA

Prima
(Pasig) tel 641.1215

3 IKAW LAMANG . . .

Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto SUPER CINERAMA
tel 733.4238

1 (DOLBY) COLLATERAL DAMAGE
2 IKAW LAMANG . .
3 HALIK SA AKING LUPA
4 RESERVE
5 RESERVE

New Divisoria Mall DIVISORIA CINEMA
tel 244.4619

1 IKAW LAMANG . . .
2 HALIK SA AKING LUPA
3 KAULAYAW
4 RESERVE
5 RESERVE
6 COLLATERAL DAMAGE

Baclaran LRT LRT CINEMA
tel 512.0115

1 (DOLBY)
2

Berma
tel 879.2029

1 COLLATERAL DAMAGE
2 IKAW LAMANG

CitiMall
(Parañaque) tel 820.7269

1 COLLATERAL DAMAGE
2 IKAW LAMANG . . .

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Target Mall
(Sta. Rosa Laguna)
tel (049) 534.2185 / 534.2198

1 IKAW LAMANG . . .
2 IKAW LAMANG . . .
3 (DTS) COLLATERAL DAMAGE

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1 REBULOSYONARYO
2 (DTS) IKAW LAMANG . . .
3 (DOLBY) COLLATERAL DAMAGE
4 HEARTS IN ATLANTIC

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel (049) 411.1146

1 REBULOSYONARYO
2 (DOLBY) HEARRTS IN ATLANTIC
3 (DTS) COLLATERAL DAMAGE
4 IKAW LAMANG

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771

1 FINAL ANSWER
2 OCEAN'S ELEVEN
3 SOON TO OPEN
4 SOON TO OPEN

Cinema 2000 METRO TOWN
TEL. (045) 9821729 (Tarlac)

1 IKAW LAMANG . . .
2 BLACK HAWK DOWN
3 (DOLBY) VANILLA SKY
4 (DTS) IKAW LAMANG

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 (SDDS) COLLATERAL DAMAGE
2 HALIK SA AKING LUPA
3 KAULAYAW
4 (DTS) IKAW LAMANG . . .

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 (DOLBY) HEARTS IN ATLANTIC
2 IKAW LAMANG . . .
3 (DTS) COLLATERAL DAMAGE
4 KAULAYAW
5 HUSTLER

Olivarez Tri-Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883

1 IKAW LAMANG . . .
2 COLLATERAL DAMAGE
3 KAULAYAW

Olivarez Los Baños
tel (049) 249-2568

1 IKAW LAMANG . . .
2 COLLATERAL DAMAGE
3 KAULAYAW

Olivarez Tagaytay
tel (046) 413.0311

1 BLACK HAWK DOWN
2 IKAW LAMANG . . .
3 KAULAYAW

Morales Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.9736

1 IKAW LAMANG . . .
2
3 RESERVE

Cabuyao
(Laguna City) tel (049) 531.4808

1 (DTS) IKAW LAMANG . . .
2 (DTS) COLLATERAL DAMAGE

Emperor
(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657

1 COLLATERAL DAMAGE
2 IKAW LAMANG . . .
3 ISANG PANAGINIP

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1 MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA
2 COLLATERAL DAMAGE
3 IKAW LAMANG . . .
4 THE OTHERS

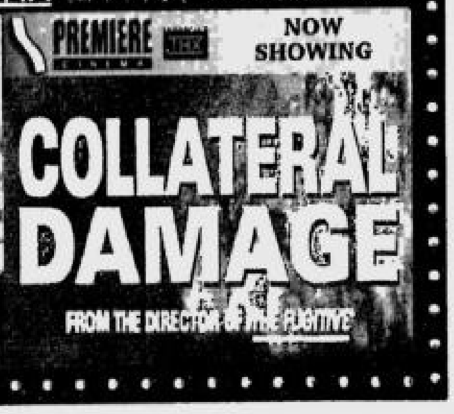
Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03

1 (DOLBY EX) SPY GAME
2 IKAW LAMANG . . .
3 COLLATERAL DAMAGE
4 (DTS ES) ZOOLANDER

*Movies are subject to change without prior notice

ADVANCED SCREENING THX DOLBY DIGITAL dts SDDS

CMG INTERNATIONAL



MOVIEWORLD CINEMAS

NOW SHOWING

galleria
633-9115-16 /633-7641 loc. 979

1 THX COLLATERAL DAMAGE
2 COLLATERAL DAMAGE
3 VANILLA SKY
4 RIDING IN CARS
5 IKAW LAMANG . . .
6 COLLATERAL DAMAGE
7 KATE & LEOPOLD
8 IKAW LAMANG . . .
9 FROM HELL
10 BLACK HAWK DOWN

ermita
536-7809 to 12

1 COLLATERAL DAMAGE
2 VANILLA SKY
3 IKAW LAMANG . . .
4 RIDING IN CARS
5 KATE & LEOPOLD
6 IKAW LAMANG . . .
7 COLLATERAL DAMAGE

metro east -PASIG
682-8193 / 8080

1 RIDING IN CARS
2 COLLATERAL DAMAGE
3 IKAW LAMANG. . .
4 KATE & LEOPOLD
5 FROM HELL
6 IKAW LAMANG. . .
7 COLLATERAL DAMAGE
8 VANILLA SKY

novaliches
935-2229 to 30

1 COLLATERAL DAMAGE
2 COLLATERAL DAMAGE
3 VANILLA SKY
4 BLACK HAWK DOWN
5 OCEAN'S ELEVEN
6 KATE & LEOPOLD
7 IKAW LAMANG . . .
8 IKAW LAMANG . . .

imus
(046) 471-3188

1 COLLATERAL DAMAGE
2 COLLATERAL DAMAGE
3 VANILLA SKY
4 RIDING IN CARS
5 IKAW LAMANG . . .
6 IKAW LAMANG . . .

bacolod
(034) 441-0433 / 0439

1 COLLATERAL DAMAGE
2 COLLATERAL DAMAGE
3 ISANG PANAGINIP
4 LORD OF THE RINGS
5 OCEAN'S ELEVEN
6 FINAL ANSWER

iloilo
(033) 336-8077 / 8078

1 COLLATERAL DAMAGE
2 COLLATERAL DAMAGE
3 VANILLA SKY
4 AMERICAN ADOBO
5 MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA
6 BLACK HAWK DOWN

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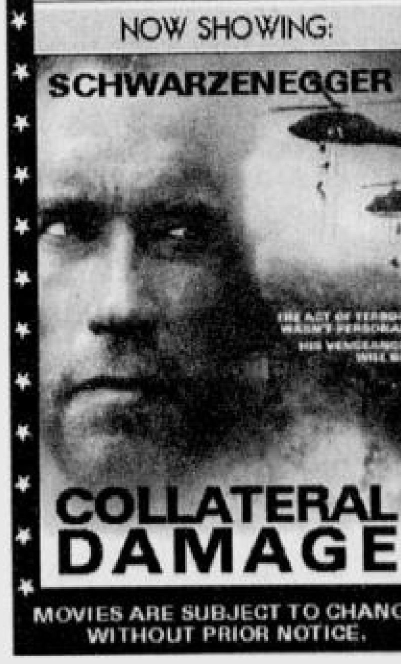

MOVIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.

Romancing the movies

From page A25

"Two of Us" at 3:45 p.m. on Feb. 16, and "Forever Mine" at 9:45 a.m. on Feb. 18.

The possibilities on videocassette or DVD are more diverse: For mature love, there's "Love Among the Ruins" with **Katharine Hepburn** and **Laurence Olivier**, directed by **George Cukon.** Love as black comedy? **Woody Allen** directs **Diane Keaton** and himself in "Love and Death."

One of the most popular big-screen romances is "Love in the Afternoon," a **Billy Wilder** movie that has captivated successive generations of film buffs. It stars the unlikely tandem of **Gary Cooper** and **Audrey Hepburn**.

Forget the age difference between the two stars and enjoy the sparkling romantic comedy, with **Maurice Chevalier** playing Audrey's private-eye dad.

Other "loverly" titles—"Love Is A Many-Splendored Thing" with **William Holden** and **Jennifer Jones**; "Love Me Or Leave Me" with **Doris Day** and **James Cagney** (another unusual Stellar combination); "Love Me Tender" with **Elvis Presley**; "Love Me Tonight" with **Maurice Chevalier** and **Jeanette MacDonald**; **Francois Truffaut**'s "Love on the Run"; "Lover and Other Strangers" with **Gig Young**; "Lovers Like Us" with **Catherine Deneuve** and **Yves Moutand**; **Milos Forman**'s "Loves of A Blonde"; "Love with the Proper Stranger" with **Natalie Wood** and **Steve McQueen**; "Loving" with **George Segal** and **Eva Marie Saint**—etc.!

Then there are all those breathlessly romantic films starring **Greta Garbo**—"Ninotchka," "Queen Christina," "Camille," "Romance," "Ann Christie."

Plus durable favorites like "Casablanca" with **Ingrid Bergman** and **Humphrey Bogart**; "Gone with the Wind" with **Vivien Leigh** and **Clark Gable**, "The Story of Adele H" with **Isabelle Adjani**; "Breathless" with **Jean Paul Belmondo**—and let's not forget the funny and touching "Sleepless in Seattle" with **Tom Hanks** and **Meg Ryan**. Enjoy!

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

ARANETA CENTER THEATERS 911-3101

ALI MALL CINEPLEX-1	IKAW LANG HANGGANG . . .
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-2	ISANG PANAGINIP
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-3 (DDS)	VANILLA SKY
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS)	COLLATERAL DAMAGE
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS)	COLLATERAL DAMAGE
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	RIDING IN CARS w/ BOYS
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7(DOLBY)	BLACK HAWK DOWN
FARMERS PLAZA-1(DOLBY)	IKAW LANG HANGGANG . . .
FARMERS PLAZA-2(DOLBY)	COLLATERAL DAMAGE
FIESTA CARNIVAL	
NEW FRONTIER	
MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	2 PISNGI NG PAG IBIG / OTHER SIDE OF LOVE
ODEON	COLLATERAL DAMAGE
ODEON-2	KAULAYAW
ROBEN	HALIK SA AKING LUPA
TANDEM-1	SEX MEDUSA
TANDEM-2	SEX EDUCATION
TIMES	THE SCORE / WOLF GIRL
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	CLOSED
ACT-4	CLOSED
CORONET-2	ORIGINAL SIN
QUEZON-1	HALIK SA AKING LUPA
REMAR	COLLATERAL DAMAGE
REMAR-2	HALIK SA AKING LUPA
NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA	
A	IKAW LAMANG HANGGANG NGAYON
B	HALIK SA AKING LUPA
C	
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	RIDING IN CARS WITH BOYS
CINEMA-2	COLLATERAL DAMAGE
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	REBULOSYONARYO
CINEMA-2	HALIK SA AKING LUPA
CINEMA-3	MARSHALL DICK
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	COLLATERAL DAMAGE
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	FROM HELL
CINEMA-6	KATE & LEOPOLD
CINEMA-7	IKAW LANG HANGGANG NGAYON
CINEMA-8	KUNG IKAW AY ISANG PANAGINIP
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	COLLATERAL DAMAGE
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	COLLATERAL DAMAGE
CINEMA-11(SDDS)	RIDING CARS w/ BOYS
CINEMA-12	VANILLA SKY
CINEMA-14	IKAW LANG HANGGANG NGAYON
CINEMA-15	IKAW LANG HANGGANG NGAYON
LORES	
CINEMA-2	CLOSED
CINEMA-3	CLOSED
POWER PLANT CINEMA	
CINEMA-1	RIDING IN CARS WITH BOYS
CINEMA-2	KATE & LEOPOLD
CINEMA-3	COLLATERAL DAMAGE
CINEMA-4	IKAW LAMANG HANGGANG NGAYON
CINEMA-5	VANILLA SKY
CINEMA-6	COLLATERAL DAMAGE
UNIWIDE METROMALL	
(LAS PINAS)	
CINEMA-1	
CINEMA-2	
CINEMA-4	
UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARANAQUE)	
CINEMA-1	ALIPIN NG TUKSO
CINEMA-2	THE OTHER SIDE OF LOVE
CINEMA-4	ALAMID

SHOWING TODAY! SM Megamall Cinema 6

SHOWING TODAY AT
PELIKULA AT LIPUNAN 2002

February 14	
11am	Emerging Filmmakers
1:30pm	Mike De leon's Sister Stella L.
4pm	Lupita Kashiwahara's Minsa'y Isang Gamu-Gamu
6:30pm	Newly-Restored Classic! Mar S. Torres' Jack and Jill
9pm	Micheal Rymer's PERFUME

TODAY SKYFILMS

TOMORROW NIGHT:
February 15, 2002
THE BEATLES in
Richard Lester's
A HARD DAY'S NIGHT
at 9pm, SM Megamall
Cinema 6
for inquiries pls call 723 4058

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STEPHEN HOLDEN, THE NEW YORK TIMES
DREW BARRYMORE
RIDING IN CARS WITH BOYS
ridingincars.com

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4 GOLDEN GLOBE AWARDS
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RUSSELL CROWE
A BEAUTIFUL MIND
THE ONLY THING GREATER THAN THE POWER OF THE MIND IS THE COURAGE OF THE HEART
VIVA

OPENS MARCH 6

POWER PLANT CINEMA
Rockwell Center, Makati City ☎ Tel. No: 8981440-41 DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND EX

RIDING IN CARS WITH BOYS - P 13 10:40, 1:20, 4:00, 6:40, 9:30	KATE & LEOPOLD - GP 10:40, 1:00, 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 11:00	COLLATERAL DAMAGE - R 18 12:50, 3:10, 5:30, 7:50, 10:10
IKAW LAMANG HANGGANG NGAYON - GP 11:10, 1:20, 3:30, 5:40, 7:50, 10:00	VANILLA SKY - R 18 1:15, 4:00, 6:45, 9:30	COLLATERAL DAMAGE - R 18 11:20, 1:40, 4:10, 6:30, 8:50, 11:10

Matinee, P80, Mon.-Fri.,11:00 am to 4:45 pm Screenings, Free Seating.

AYALA MALLS ENTERTAINMENT

AYALA CINEMAS NOW SHOWING
All Digital Sound

GLORIETTA 1 formerly QUAD
1 IKAW LAMANG HANGGANG NGAYON in SONY DYNAMIC DIGITAL SOUND
2 COLLATERAL DAMAGE in DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
3 VANILLA SKY in DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
4 KATE &LEOPOLD in DTS DIGITAL SOUND

GLORIETTA 4
1 IKAW LAMANG HANGGANG NGAYON in DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
2 COLLATERAL DAMAGE in DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
3 COLLATERAL DAMAGE THX in DSD/SDDS/DTS DIGITAL SOUND
4 VANILLA SKY in DTS DIGITAL SOUND
5 KATE &LEOPOLD in DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
6 in DTS/SDDS DIGITAL SOUND
7 RIDING IN CARS W/ BOYS in DTS DIGITAL SOUND
Art Film

GREENBELT
1 HAPPY TOGETHER (Exclusive Screenings) in DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
2 COLLATERAL DAMAGE in SONY DYNAMIC DIGITAL SOUND
3 THE GOLDEN BOWL (Phil. Premiere) in DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
4 PROMISES PROMISES FEB. 14, 15, 16 - 8 PM Onstage

ALABANG TOWN CENTER
1 COLLATERAL DAMAGE THX in DSD/SDDS DIGITAL SOUND
2 COLLATERAL DAMAGE in DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
3 RIDING IN CARS W/ BOYS in DTS DIGITAL SOUND
4 KATE &LEOPOLD in DTS DIGITAL SOUND
5 IKAW LAMANG HANGGANG NGAYON in DTS DIGITAL SOUND

The Ayala mall Events
THIS WEEK'S EVENTS

MAKATI
CALENDAR AD For this week:
Live at the Activity Center:
Feb. 16, 2002— Moonlight Serenade at the Lagoon
Post Valentines Dinner Show with Nonoy Zuñiga and Janet Basco
Feb. 16, 2002—Spell-a-Prize Raffle Draw
Feb. 17, 2002—Jericho Rosales and Cristine Hermosa, Live at the Activity Center 7:30 PM to 8:30 PM
Feb. 24, 2002—Little Love Acts (Card Decorating Contest and Card Making Contest for Mom and child and Dad and child)

ALABANG
ALABANG TOWN CENTER EVENTS
Feb. 13 & 14
NOTE-A-ROSE
Customers get one (1) ROSE upon presentation of P150 receipts (single or accumulated) with a Coke product purchase from any of the FOOD CHOICES AT THE TOWN establishments.
CHINESE DRAGON-LION DANCE
2:00 PM, MALLWIDE
Feb. 16 & 17
VALENTINES TOWN FAIR
We give you exciting activities with FOOD, GAMES, HENNA TATTOO, FACE PAINTING and SCHOOL BOOTHS as well as a LOVE SONG REQUEST or GREET A FRIEND at RX 93.1 and Clowns at the Town Plaza.
MY KIDDIE VALENTINE SHOW
Feb. 16, 11:00 am - Town Plaza & Feb. 17, 4:00 pm Cinema Lobby
PIDO with TAKE ONE Band Show
Feb. 16, 7:00 pm - Town Plaza
ANONYMOUS FASHION SHOW
Feb. 17, 4:00 pm - Town Plaza
For inquiries, please call Customer Service at 842-2782

CEBU
CALENDAR AD
For the period of Feb. 1 to 3, 2002
Valentine Card Making & Cookie Decorating Contest
Feb. 3, 10 & 24, 2002
(3:30 PM, Activity Center)
USC Festival of the Arts
Feb. 1, 2002
(4:00 PM, Activity Center)
Fashion Show w/ Latin Band
Feb. 1, 2002
(6:30 PM, Lagoon Area)

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TOGETHER AT LAST
IN THE MOST ROMANTIC DATE-MOVIE
THIS VALENTINE'S!

RICHARD GOMEZ and REGINE VELASQUEZ

Sa pag-ibig
lahat ay maganda,
lahat may kabuluhan.
A film by Yam Laranas
Ikaw Lamang
Hanggang Ngayon

Starring CANDY PANGILINAN TANYA GARCIA
Featuring the theme song "HANGGANG NGAYON" Music & Lyrics by Ogie Alcasid & Regine Velasquez, from the album "A BETTER MAN"
directed by YAM LARANAS
VIVA FILMS
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ANTIPOLO RAPE-MURDER

Cop chief blames PNP crime lab

By Nelson Flores

ANTIPOLO police chief Supt. Jose Dayco yesterday blamed the Philippine National Police Crime Laboratory for the delay in the filing of criminal charges against the suspects in the rape and murder of the Bailon sisters in the city on Feb. 1.

In an interview with the Inquirer, Dayco said the PNP-CL has yet to come up with the results of the fingerprint and DNA tests, 12 days after laboratory technicians conducted a sweep of the crime scene, examining evidence as well as a number of persons connected with the case, including the bodies of the victims.

Dayco said that, up to now, police cannot determine with finality whether the victims were actually raped due to the absence of the test results.

"Although there are indications the victims were raped, we cannot say so with finality, and that is also the reason why we are taking time in filing the appropriate charges against the suspects," Dayco explained.

Two suspects, Jovito Guray and Roger Benavende, are already in police custody, but they still have to be charged in connection with the rape-slaying case. Police are also looking for a third suspect.

Dayco said despite the absence of formal charges against Guray and Benavende, he is not worried that they will be let out over a technicality since the suspects are being held on the strength of warrants issued against them in connection with other criminal cases.

He said Guray surrendered to Albay Rep. Joey Salceda early this week when the suspect learned that he was being sought for the rape-slaying of sisters Agnes and Jasmine Bailon, while Benavende was arrested on Monday in his hideout at Rapu Rapu Island, Tabaco, Albay.

Both men denied any involvement in the rape-slaying, even after police informed the suspects that witnesses have identified the two as among those who were seen leaving the Bailon residence in Sitio Uno, Barangay Dalig, at the time the sisters were raped and killed, Dayco said.

According to police records, Guray is a known drug dependent and neighborhood tough guy. He and Benavende have a string of robbery and theft cases in their names.

Records also showed that Guray was accused of stealing the cellular phone of 22-year-old Jasmine Bailon last December.

"When Jasmine filed criminal charges against Guray, the suspect threatened to kill her," Dayco said.

The sisters were believed to have been raped and killed between 10 p.m. and 4 a.m. on Feb. 1 inside their house. Their bodies were discovered by Arnold Jaurigue, who went to the victims' house after they failed to answer several calls over the cellular phone.

The sisters were stabbed repeatedly. Jasmine's body also bore torture marks.

"(Jasmine) was hit on the head with a hard object and apparently choked with pillows, leading investigators to conclude there are more than one person involved in the crime," Dayco said.

The Antipolo police chief also denied reports that the suspects were police assets.

"None of the suspects are police assets, although I think one of them is related to one," Dayco said.

Comelec exec summoned on successor's murder

By Philip c. tubeza

AFTER nearly three months of detective work, the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) has finally subpoenaed former Commission on Elections (Comelec) executive Anglina Matibag to shed light on the murder of her successor, Velma Cinco.

And Matibag might even show up at the bureau today, Valentine's Day.

An NBI official said yesterday that they expect to interview Matibag today at the NBI about Cinco's killing in November.

"She has been saying she wants to air her side. Now she has the chance to do so," the official said.

Cinco was ambushed on Nov. 20 last year at the corner of Pedro Gil and Eden streets in Sta. Ana, Manila while on board her red Kia Pride (with Plate No. TDR 779) with her son Carlo and sister Marian S. Jayme.

Cinco, 62, died due to four gunshot wounds in her head and body. Carlo was hit in his right shoulder while Jayme was unhurt.

While denying that she had anything to do with the Cinco murder, Matibag has repeatedly said that she is ready to cooperate with investigators.

Though her name had also repeatedly come up in the course of the joint NBI and police inquiry, investigators had been reluctant to formally invite Matibag because they did not have enough solid evidence to link her to the killing.

But the NBI official said they recently had "good developments" in the case, adding that they now have a "basis" to invite Matibag for questioning.

During the course of their investigation, the authorities have charged only one man in the Cinco murder.

Conrado Robles, 47, of Barangay Malakimpook, San Pascual, Batangas was charged with murder and frustrated murder, and illegal possession of firearms for Cinco's killing and the injury of her son Carlo.

The defendant was allegedly one of the two motorcycle-riding gunmen who ambushed Cinco. He was allegedly a former casual employee at the Comelec. When Cinco took over the Comelec Education and Information Department, Robles allegedly lost his job.

Angry client stabs . . .

From page A19

not his brother, as his immediate heir.

And even if the transfer is permitted, he would still have to wait until his brother reaches 60 before he can claim the retirement benefits.

Still, Henares insisted on his supposed right over the benefits. He also reiterated the contents of his January 9 letter to SSS president and chief executive officer Corazon de la Paz which stated that the contribution transfer would not affect his brother financially, as the latter had investments on retirement plans to augment his and his wife's pensions from the US government.

He added that his own monthly pension was "just not enough to pay the rent" and sustain his daily needs.

Henares also said that the contribution transfer was his brother's way of thanking him for seeing him through college.

This prompted Bibit to recommend that the suspect file an appeal to the Social Security Commission.

But when the lawyer left his office to go to the comfort room, Henares reportedly followed him and, without a word, stabbed him with a 5-inch ice pick.

Seeing the victim bloodied, the suspect also stabbed himself twice in the body.

Agnes E. Donato

JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

PRIZE CUB
Malabon Zoo owner Manny Tangco (right) presents Felix the Cat, a tiger cub, to Singapore Ambassador Jacky Foo as a token of his appreciation for sponsoring his studies in zoo management in Singapore. Tangco topped the course which was participated in by zoo managers all over the world.

WPD . . .

From page A19

transfers, and recall all those who have been reassigned.

Napolcom vice chair and executive director Rogelio Pureza ruled that the transfers are undermining the civilian character of the police.

He said erring policemen must be given prior notice and summary hearings before they are transferred.

Pureza also said that provincial police outposts must not be made into a "dumping ground" of perceived "undesirables."

Over 400 WPD operatives who were marked absent, late, or who were caught wearing improper uniform during morning roll calls and afternoon formations have been reassigned to police units as far as Mindanao and Cordillera.

Aglipay maintains that the transfers are a "managerial prerogative."

Aglipay also said Napolcom officials told him that the transfers are legitimate, so long as he has the permission of the mayor of the city or municipality where the erring policeman will be assigned.

This space was provided by Philippine Daily Inquirer, a Corporate Partner of WWF-Philippines. INQUIRER

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NO TRAWL-ING
CYANIDE IS HOMICIDE
STAY OUT!
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STAY OUT!
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FISH RALLY. A massive protest action is being held in Philippine waters against the harm caused by illegal and destructive fishing practices. The organisers need your support. Donate to WWF now by calling 433 3222.

Death penalty for cops involved in crime

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

POLICEMEN and other law enforcement agents who are found guilty of a crime should be meted out the maximum penalty even if their fellow conspirators, who are civilians, receive light sentences from the courts.

Their being law enforcers is an aggravating circumstance.

Only then can we minimize the number of cops being involved in kidnapping, drug trafficking or drug pushing, robbery, rape, theft and homicide.

* * *

If memory serves, Sen. Rodolfo Biazon drafted a bill several years ago seeking to impose automatically the death penalty on policemen and other law enforcers found guilty of serious crimes.

What happened to the Biazon bill? If it has been filed in the archives, then it's high time he dusted it and re-filed it.

More and more policemen and law enforcers are involved in kidnapping, drug trafficking, robbery and other big crimes. The courts seem to be lenient toward these erring policemen, giving them light sentences or acquitting them of serious offenses.

* * *

The law creating the Philippine National Police can probably be amended through a bill that would make policemen subject to military-type discipline.

Under the bill, policemen would be considered special civil service employees, "special" to mean that they are not civilian employees but in the category of paramilitary or uniformed members of the government. As such, they are subject to military-type discipline and punishment.

A cop accused of a heinous crime could be placed in a stockade or special jail while the case against him is being heard by a court or an administrative body.

* * *

The law creating the PNP made all policemen civil service employees subject to civil service rules. A policeman facing an administrative charges can be suspended, but he cannot be detained while his case is pending.

A military man who is facing a criminal or administrative case can be confined to barracks or placed in a stockade while the case against him is being heard.

Also under military rules, a superior with the rank of colonel can dismiss on the spot an enlisted man who commits a serious infraction.

* * *

The PNP Law merged the Philippine Constabulary, a military organization, with the Integrated National Police which, even if it was a civilian organization, was nevertheless subject to military discipline and punishment.

The PNP Law did away with military discipline and punishment. As a result, members of then defunct PC easily embraced the civilian way of discipline, if there was any. The INP members, on the other hand, became more undisciplined.

The civilian character of the PNP brought out the monster among the old scalawags in the defunct PC and INP, as well as the newcomers. They are enjoying their newfound freedom in the imperfect organization, the freedom to commit abuses with seeming impunity.

* * *

Look at those cops who get involved in kidnapping and drug trafficking. Do you think they would have done that during the old PC-INP setup, when they were subject to military discipline?

In the old setup, Senior Supt. Willie Dangane and Supt. Efren Alcuizar, accused of conspiring with a notorious kidnap-for-ransom gang, would immediately have been placed in the stockade while they awaited charges against them. Right now, those good-for-nothing SOBs are just confined to the PNP headquarters in Camp Crame.

A retired PC officer, who was a contemporary of my old man, told me that if he were the superior officer of those two scalawags he would have ordered them executed. He could probably have created a scenario, say an ambush, where the two would be killed.

P*& ^ %$#! Imagine, Dangane was operations chief of Task Force Sanlahi assigned to go after the notorious Pentagon gang. Alcuizar, on the other hand, was head of the regional anti-narcotics office in Central Mindanao and a member of the task force.

* * *

You know who exposed those two uniformed beasts?

You're wrong if you say it was their superiors in the PNP. It was Davao City Mayor Rodrigo Duterte.

A lot of people in Mindanao wish Dangane and Alcuizar were caught by Duterte operating in Davao City because they could have been dead by now, shot down by unidentified vigilantes.

Mayors league to decide on two elections

By Christian V. Esguerra

METRO Manila mayors will come up with a unified stand on whether the barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan elections should push through in May despite the lack of funds.

The issue will be a key part of the agenda when the League of Metro Manila Mayors meets on Friday, according to Pasay Mayor Wenceslao Trinidad, group spokesperson.

Mayors, he said, should once and for all issue a solid opinion to help Congress and other concerned authorities decide whether to allocate a budget for the elections.

"This issue should be settled soon," he told the INQUIRER. "The elections are very near but the government has yet to decide if it would have the elections in May."

A number of lawmakers had pushed for the postponement of the elections for 2004, saying that the exercise would cost around P1.8 billion.

The amount, they said, should instead be spent for the computerization of the national and local elections two years from now.

In Friday's meeting, Trinidad said he would try to convince other mayors to have the barangay and SK elections in May.

He said the elections would be very important if only to put fresh faces in SK and barangay positions, which have been controlled by "over-staying" officials.

Among the mayors Trinidad may really have to woo is Mayor Jejomar Binay of Makati.

Binay had openly opposed the holding of the SK and barangay elections mainly because of lack of funds.

Binay was particularly angered by the Commission on Elections' proposal that local governments chip in 10 percent of their respective internal revenue allocation (IRA) to finance the elections.

The IRA is the amount allocated to local governments from the national budget.

Instead of proceeding with the exercise, Binay suggested that mayors be authorized to appoint officials at the barangay level.

But Trinidad pointed out that a "free, honest, and open elections is the very essence of a democracy," thus the government should proceed with the elections this May.

Honors all set for 2 diplomats

A TESTIMONIAL dinner for two members of the Philets Foundation Inc. who have distinguished themselves in the diplomatic service will be held on March 2 at the Club Filipino, Greenhills, San Juan.

To be honored are career Ambassador Sonia Cataumber-Brady, currently assistant secretary for policy planning and coordination of the Department of Foreign Affairs, and Manila Standard publisher Alejandro 'Andy' del Rosario, newly confirmed Philippine Ambassador to Hungary. The two are members of the Philets Foundation Inc., an alumni association of the defunct Faculty of Philosophy and Letters of the University of Santo Tomas.

Philippine Daily Inquirer columnist Neal H. Cruz, Foundation chair, said the testimonial will coincide with the general assembly and election of 10 members of the board of trustees.

Incumbent president Roy Acosta, publisher and editor in chief of Manila Meteor, disclosed that former Sen. Francisco 'Kit' Tatad, himself a Philet, will lead a panel of speakers that include Joe Burgos and Julie Yap Daza during the affair.

Philets are requested to contact the Foundation secretariat (Menchu Bon) for details of the testimonial and election at tel. nos. 928-5117 and 456-9339.

NGAYONG VALENTINE'S, MASARAP ANG BULAKLAK.
DATU PUTI
VINEGAR
DATU PUTI VINEGAR
No.1 Natural Pure Asim

Jaya and South Border in 'Love Soul' at Hard Rock Café

SHOWS

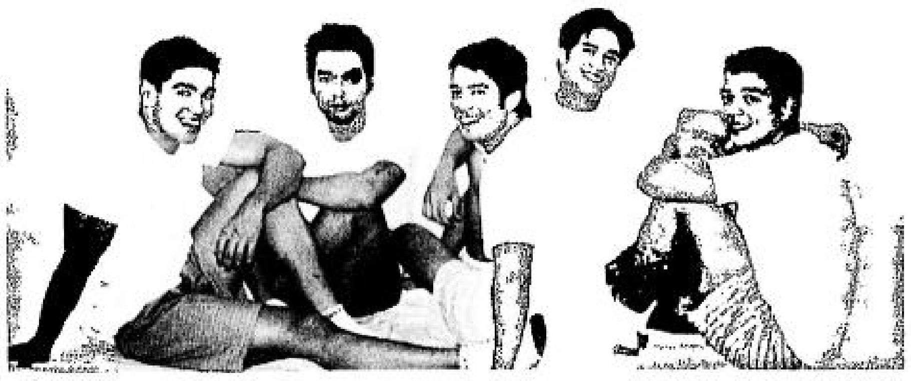
HARD Rock Café and 90.7 Love Radio present "Love Soul Valentine," featuring two of the leading R&B acts in the country today, South Border and Jaya, 9:30 tonight.

Entrance to the show is P400, inclusive of two standard drinks.

Other events this February at Hard Rock are "Jammin' Around the Islands," featuring Alou Gonzales, Toti Fuentes and Sabor Latino on Feb. 18, Lite Rock at Hard Rock featuring Chad Borja and Bituin Escalante on Feb. 20, "Crossover Live" featuring First Circle on Feb. 21 and Carlos Agassi with the X-Project on Feb. 22.

On regular days, Hard Rock features Pido wtih Take One (Mondays), Noel Cabangon with Big (Tuesdays), Chad Borja and Passage (Saturdays) and 9 MM (Sundays).

For more information, call 893-4661 to 63.



THE HUNKS

'Virgin' Hunks

THE HUNKS are set to conquer the major concert scene with "Hunks: First Time Mo?—The Virgin Valentine Concert," 8 tonight at Tanghalang Francisco Balagtas (formerly Folk Arts Theater).

Be captivated by gorgeous hunks Diether Ocampo, Carlos Agassi, Piolo Pascual, Bernard Palanca and Jericho Rosales as they sizzle onstage dancing to some of the hottest tunes like "La Vida Loca," "She Bangs," "Rock My World," "Kiss," "Just A Gigolo," "One Wild Night," "We Will Rock You" and more.

Special guests are (in alphabetical order) Ai-Ai de las Alas, Richard Gomez, Kristine Hermoso, Patricia Javier, John Lapus, Maxine, Rica Peralejo and Jon Santos.

Stage direction is by Johnny Manahan, musical direction by Homer Flores and script by Rondel Lindayag and Joel Mercado.

The concert is a production of JLF Organization.

'Valentine Crazy'

IT'S "VALENTINE Crazy" for Dulce, Marissa Sanchez and Carding of The ReyCards in the Valentine's Day offering of DR Productions, tonight at the ballroom of Hotel Rembrandt in Quezon City.

Expect an evening of great music, off-the-cuff comic remarks and even more reckless performances from the show's main cast who will be joined by Jo Awayan and teen singer Danita Paner in several production numbers. Musical director is Gerry Matias.

"Valentine Crazy" is a production of Daisy Romualdez.

Café de Malate promo

CAFÉ de Malate celebrates Valentine's Day by offering huge discounts on selected drinks. The "Valentine's Special" promo is on from 6 to 10 p.m. at the Cafe's four outlets—coffee shop, piano bar, jazz bar and rooftop.

Early patrons can now order all brands of beer at half the price. Ladies' drinks are being offered at 40 percent less of the actual price.

"This is our own way of expressing thanks for the continued support of our loyal patrons," said Café de Malate owner and general manager Bobby Velasco.

Café de Malate, now on its 19th year, is at Leon Guinto st., Ermita, Manila.

Third anniversary

JOIN Virgin Café in celebrating its third anniversary with non-stop partying is in store for its loyal patrons.

Double treat means doubling the fun on Valentine's day with Freeverse and Elements.

Balladeer Ogie Alcasid serenades the crowd with timeless love songs in a post-Valentine show, Feb. 15.

Side A sets the stage on fire Feb. 21 and 28.

Feb. 20 will be bumping and grinding night with South Border.

Sundays become extra special with Chillworx.

Dance the night away on Mondays with Juice Band, R&B hits on Tuesdays with Escape.

Wednesdays are even more exciting as Pido with Take One takes centerstage.

Enjoy the hits of the '70s, '80s and '90s with Moo and Real Groove on Fridays.

Let Saturdays be your night of unwinding and dancing with Big and Toy Symphony.

Free concert

"MISS Saigon" alumnus Jenine Desiderio holds a free Valentine's Day concert tonight at the Eastwood City Park in Libis, Quezon City.

Jenine pays homage to the Motown divas with her versions of such hits as "Natural Woman," "Touch Me in the Morning," "I'll Never Love This Way Again" and "Tell Him."

The Viva contract artist will also relive the pomp and revelry of the '70s with her medley of such hits as "If I Can't Have You," "Come To Me," "Rock the Boat," "Boogie Oogie Oogie," "Enough is Enough" and "Ain't Nothing Gonna Keep Me From You."

On Feb. 16, Jenine will stage another concert at Canyon Woods in Tagaytay City.

'PROMISES, PROMISES'

Actor's Actors present the last three shows of "Promises, Promises," the hit musical by Burt Bacharach, Hal David and playwright Neil Simon, which goes onstage tonight, Feb. 15 and 16 at Onstage in Greenbelt. Real-life sweethearts Rachel Alejandro and Lee Robin Salazar star in the musical with Michael Williams and Bernardo Bernardo. Show starts 8 p.m., with matinee on Feb. 16 at 3 p.m.

PANER

ALEJANDRO

'Twin Hearts'

EXPECT a hearty dose of R&B-flavored grooves as Arnee Hidalgo teams up with soul meister Nino Alejandro in a special back-to-back performance at Gillespie's Edsa Shangri-La Hotel tonight.

The duo will perform current favorites such as "Cruisin'," "Nobody Wants To Be Lonely," as well as pop classics like "What's Up," "Something Stupid," "It Might Be You" and "The Closer I Get To You."

Arnee's solo repertoire includes "Emotions," "Get Here," "Sunlight" and "Say You Love Me."

Arnee and Nino are the latest addition to ALV Productions' growing roster of talents, managed by Arnold Vegafria.

Jinky in Cebu

PETITE belter Jinky Llamanzares stages her solo Valentine's Day concert, "A Whole Lot of Love," tonight at the Cebu Waterfront Hotel in Mactan.

Expect the usual crop of timeless romantic classics and a dash of high-energy pop to add sizzle to the festive but tranquil air in the bustling city down south.

Joining Jinky are some of Cebu's top session musicians.

At Freedom Bar

VOCALIST and band leader Bing Austria performs at Freedom Bar on Anonas st., Quezon City, 9 p.m. on Feb. 15.

Bing will dish out his soul, ska and reggae songs. He will also do covers of music legends such as UB40, Style Council, The Who and Chris Montes, as well as his own compositions.

UP Jazz Friends

THE UP Jazz Friends, led by director Juan Cardiz, will feature jazz standards in the concert, "Some Enchanted Evening," 6 tonight at the Abelardo Hall Auditorium of the UP College of Music in Diliman, Quezon City.

The repertoire will include Glenn Miller's "Moonlight Serenade" and "In the Mood," Billy Strayhorn's "Take the A-Train," Duke Ellington's "Mood Indigo," Jobim's "Meditacion" and other tunes.

Soloists for the evening are Ron Nethercutt on trombone, Ria Victorino on vocals and Ramon Mancion on trumpet.

For tickets, call 929-6963 or 920-5301.

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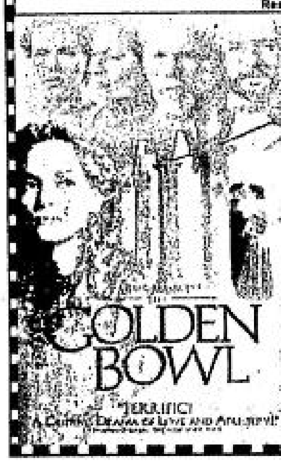

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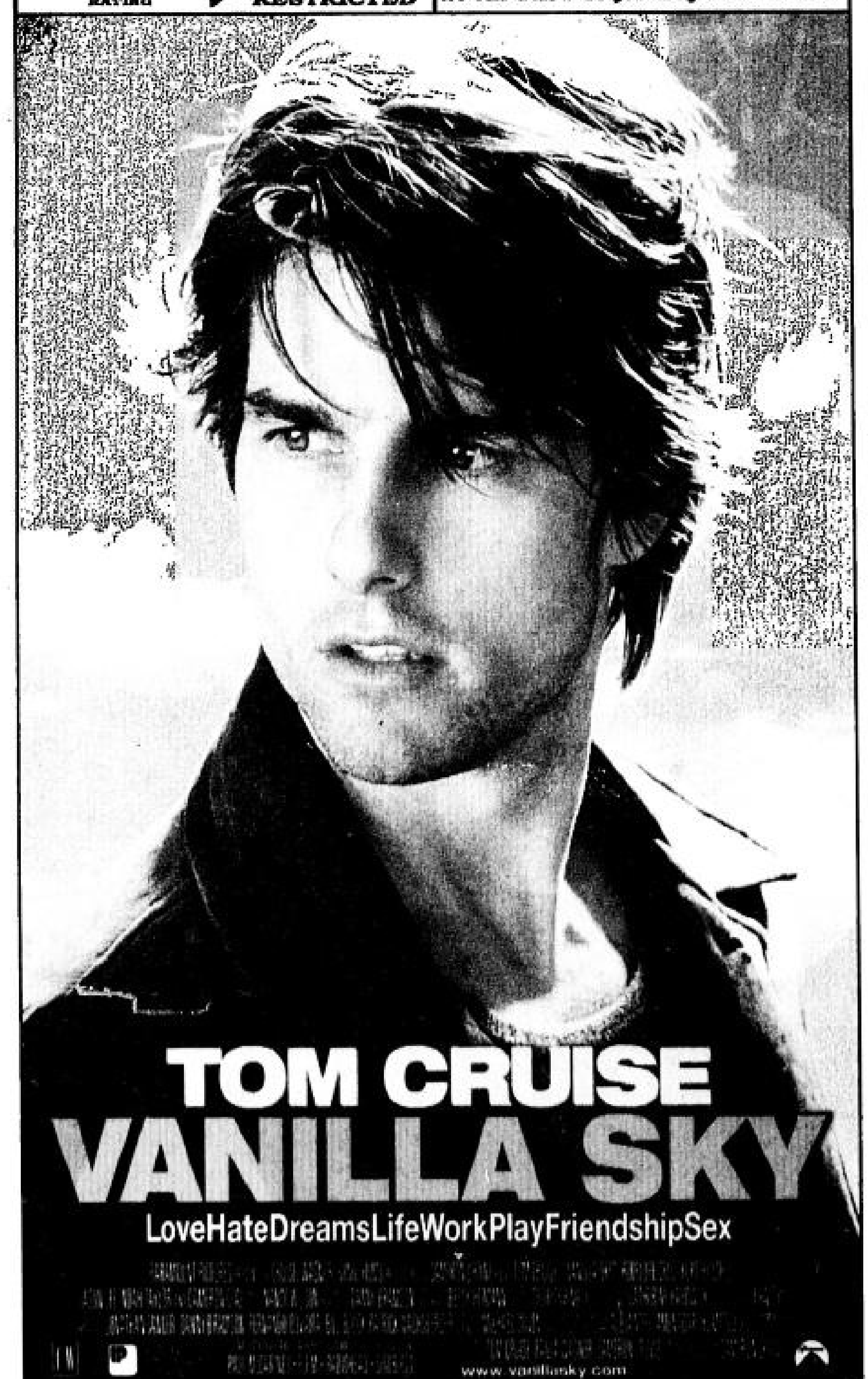

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ENTERTAINMENT

Editor **Louie C. Camino**

'Lord of the Rings' leads Oscar field with 13 nominations

By David Germain

BEVERLY HILLS, California—"The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring" may have earned a leading 13 Academy Award nominations, but the fantasy epic faces a hurdle in a best-picture race against a more traditional drama, "A Beautiful Mind."

"Lord of the Rings" is last year's No. 2 box-office hit. But fantasies have rarely been taken seriously by Oscar voters, and an otherworldly epic such as the first film installment of J.R.R. Tolkien's classic has never won best picture.

"A Beautiful Mind"—tied with "Moulin Rouge" for second place with eight nominations—is the sort of heavy drama members of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences often favor. "A Beautiful Mind" beat "Lord of the Rings" for top dramatic honors at last month's Golden Globes.

"I certainly would say, being a realist, we're definitely in a sort of underdog situation," said "Rings" director Peter Jackson.

"You certainly have to look at what's happened in the past."

Among nominations Tuesday for "Lord of the Rings" were best picture, best director and supporting actor for Ian McKellen, while "A Beautiful Mind"—a dramatization of math genius John Nash's battle with schizophrenia—received nominations for best picture, director Ron Howard, actor Russell Crowe and supporting actress Jennifer Connelly.

Other best-picture contenders are "Gosford Park," Robert Altman's murder-mystery and class-war satire; "In the Bedroom," a low-budget tale of family tragedy and vengeance; and "Moulin Rouge," a glitzy, tragicomic musical set in 1899 Paris.

Besides Howard, Jackson and Altman, best-director picks were David Lynch for "Mulholland Drive" and Ridley Scott for "Black Hawk Down."

"Lord of the Rings" may be positioned to dominate the technical categories and come away with the most statuettes come Oscar night March 24.

The film's nominations include cinematography, costume design, editing, makeup and visual effects.

"A Beautiful Mind" has the advantage of two great performances that already have grabbed major film honors. Crowe and Connelly won Golden Globes, and Crowe has become a favorite among Oscar voters, scoring his third straight best-actor nomination and winning last year for "Gladiator."

Attending the Berlin Film Festival, where "A Beautiful Mind" was playing, Crowe joked that portraying a brilliant mathematician taxes his acting talent.

Along with Crowe, the lead-actor category includes two black actors for the first time, Will Smith as boxer Muhammad Ali in "Ali" and Denzel Washington as a bad cop in "Training Day."

With Halle Berry nominated as an executed inmate's widow for "Monster's Ball," it was the first time since 1972 that three blacks were nominated in the lead-acting categories.

Smith said commercial hits for himself, Washington, Berry, Eddie Murphy and Martin Lawrence have opened doors to more serious roles for blacks.

"As blacks have proven we can make money at the box office, proved we can open a movie and take it around the world and be successful, from that standpoint, I think other things will be created from that," Smith said. "That's always been my approach, make as much money as I can at the box office in order to open up the other roles for myself."

Other best-actor nominees are Sean Penn as a retarded dad in "I Am Sam" and Tom Wilkinson as a vengeful father in "In the Bedroom."

Joining Berry in the best-actress field are Judi Dench as British writer Iris Murdoch for "Iris;" Nicole Kidman as a star-crossed lover in "Moulin Rouge;" Sissy Spacek as a grieving mother in "In the Bedroom;" and Renee Zellweger as a Londoner pursuing romance in "Bridget Jones's Diary."

Spacek, a five-time nominee who won best actress for 1980's "Coal Miner's Daughter," said she was thrilled to be back in the Oscar hunt.

Her last nomination came for 1986's "Crimes of the Heart."

"There aren't as many roles for women my age, and there are so darn many of us," said Spacek, 52. "We just all have to take turns, I guess. I'm just going to enjoy this and think in terms that I'll hopefully get at least one more job because of this."

Gene Hackman, a Golden Globe winner for "The Royal Tenenbaums," missed out on an Oscar nomination. Billy Bob Thornton, a double Golden Globe nominee for "The Man Who Wasn't There" and "Bandits," was omitted. And "Moulin Rouge" director Baz Luhrmann was snubbed, even though "Moulin Rouge" became the first live-action musical nominated for best picture since "All That Jazz" in 1979.

Kidman, shooting a movie in Sweden, said the film crew held up a placard after a take informing her she was nominated.

"There's a lot of surprises in life, and this is certainly one of mine," said Kidman, who took the Golden Globe for musical or comedy actress. "I never thought I'd be in a musical, let alone win a Golden Globe or get nominated for an Oscar." **AP**

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Romancing the movies

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

TODAY, Feb. 14, Valentine's Day, some lovers and spouses will be watching a musical show, dining out, checking in, as the passionate spirit moves them.

But what about sweethearts who don't feel like putting up with all those traffic jams and hefty pricetags, and just want to cuddle up in peace and quiet—and financial solvency?

Well, why not look for an appropriately romantic movie on cable TV, or pop a video copy of one in your VCR?

First, the movies for lovers on television: On the HBO channel, they include—Feb. 14, Thursday, "The Proposal" at 12:45 p.m. and "One True Love" at 2:30 p.m.

At 12:30 p.m. on Feb. 16, "The Story of Us" stars **Bruce Willis** and **Michelle Pfeiffer** as a couple whose 15-year-old marriage is in trouble.

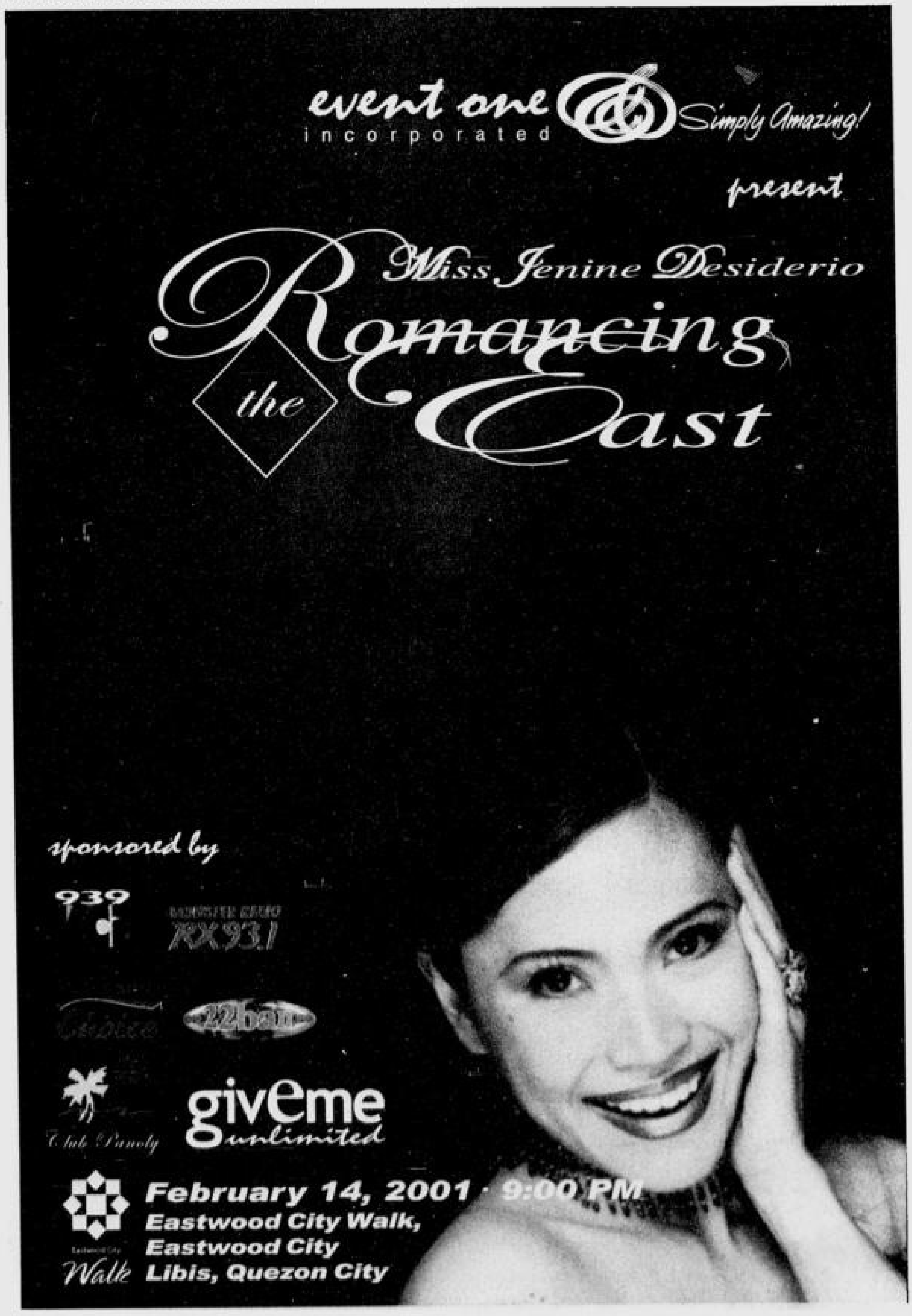
They attempt a trial separation to work out their differences. As they spend their quiet time alone, they face two prospects: to learn to fall in love again, or to make their separation a permanent arrangement.

At 7:15 p.m. on Feb.20,"The Bachelor" stars **Chris O'Donnell** as a young man whose friends get married one by one. The hapless bachelor isn't too concerned until his girlfriend catches the bouquet at his friends' wedding. Suddenly, his wild single days are numbered when he somewhat reluctantly decides to propose to her.

But he botches the proposal badly, so Anne leaves. Soon after, O'Donnell finds out that his recently-deceased grandfather's will stipulates that he won't receive his $1M inheritance if he isn't married on his 30th birthday, which is only 24 hours away. So, he goes on a mad, made chase to find a wife!

On the Cinemax movie channel, the romantic movies to watch out for include "Breakfast at Tiffany's" at 9:30 a.m. on Feb. 15 (one of **Audrey Hepburn**'s most enchanting starrers);

ROMANCING/ A21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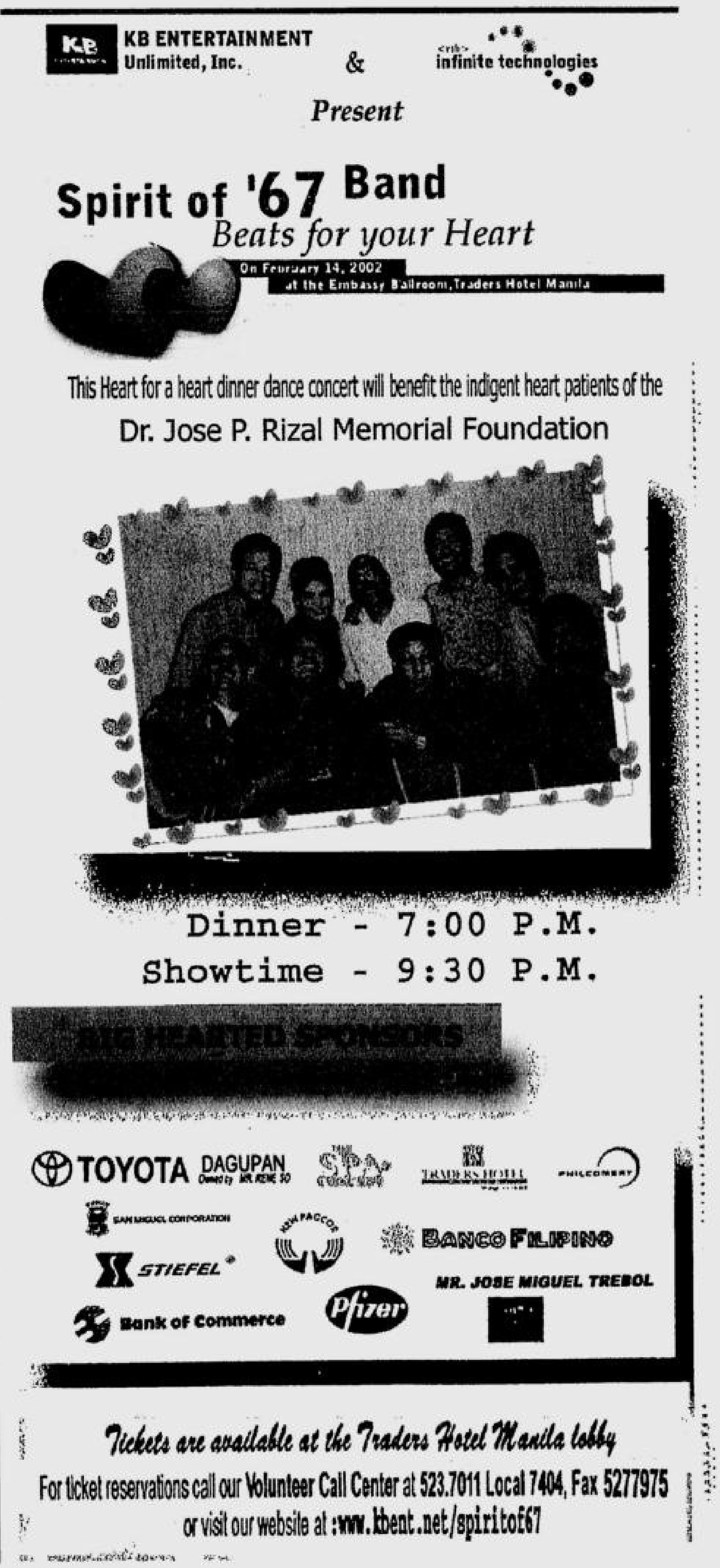
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Sanctions vs 'usurious' banks eyed

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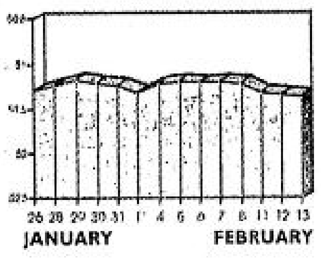

GRAPHS BY ROBERT ANDRES

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¥133.18 = $1
As of 5 p.m., Feb. 13, 2002

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STOCK MARKET

Stocks up slightly

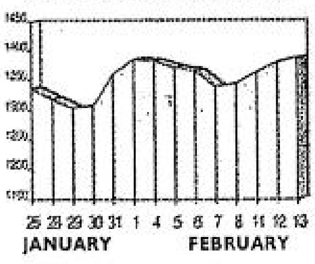
STOCKS edged slightly higher yesterday led by gains in selected large caps but with some caution creeping in as the main index neared the psychological resistance level of 1,400 points, traders said.

The main index ended up 6.23 points, or 0.45 percent, at 1,388.64 points.

Turnover reached P555.33 million, against P465.01 million on Tuesday, though there were more than P280 million in cross transactions, mainly in developer Ayala Land and its holding company, Ayala Corp.

Reuters

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



(See stock market report on Page B5)

Filinvest explains bond float

HOUSING developer Filinvest Land Inc. yesterday disputed allegations that some people could have benefited from insider information on its controversial P1.2-billion controversial bond float.

In a letter to the INQUIRER yesterday, FLI spokesperson Barbara Aleli Briones said the company had complied with proper disclosure requirements immediately after the company's board approved on Feb. 5 the terms of the bond float.

"We are not aware of individuals who got advance information on the conversion price," Briones said.

The subscriber to FLI's bond issue was Reco Grandhomes Pte. Ltd., a property unit of the Government of Singapore Investment Corp. Pte. Ltd. (GIC), which raised its stake in the local housing developer to 23.4 percent from 12 percent.

By Clarissa S. Batino and Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas yesterday said that while it had limited powers to deal with banks found overcharging their borrowers, it was considering the imposition of fines or sanctions on these "usurious" lenders.

A central bank official said the policy-making Monetary Board was considering slapping fines or even suspending some operations of lenders who refuse to honor their commitment to charge an average spread of not more than five percentage points over the 91-day treasury bill yield.

The official said the BSP was reviewing the lending rates that banks report daily and the actual rates they charge their borrowers and found a huge disparity between these rates.

Trade and Industry Secretary Manuel A. Roxas II yesterday disclosed the identities of banks that were charging their clients in the real estate, manufacturing and export sectors "usurious" rates in an effort to force them to lower their lending rates.

Roxas said these banks were charging lending rates over the 3-5 percentage point maximum spread on treasury bill rates that members of the Bankers Association of the Philippines have committed to in a "gentleman's agreement."

The banks were Union Bank, Rizal Commercial Banking Corp., Philippine National Bank, Security Bank and United Coconut Planters Bank for loans to the real estate sector; HSBC, Development Bank of the Philippines, Banco de Oro, China Banking Corp., Equitable-PCIBank, SBC, UBP, PNB, and UCPB for manufacturing; and Allied Banking Corp., RCBC, BDO, SBC, and E-PCIB for exporters.

Roxas said these banks were found to be charging more than the maximum five-percentage-point spread based on a survey of borrowers from the real estate, manufacturing and export sectors from September to December last year.

Based on the average 91-day treasury bill rate in December last year of 8.862 percent, Roxas said banks should be charging no more than 13.862 percent to their clients. Roxas said the survey showed that the banks were charging 16 percent to 17 percent on their clients which, for example, based on a P100-million loan, would burden borrowers with an additional P4 million to P5 million in financing costs annually.

SANCTIONS/ B5

SEC, PSE approve longer trading hours

By Doris C. Dumlao
and Elena R. Torrijos

THE 15-MEMBER board of the Philippine Stock Exchange yesterday approved the extension of daily trading hours until 2:30 in the afternoon to take advantage of improved investor confidence in the country.

The Securities and Exchange Commission also approved yesterday the application of the PSE to extend its trading hours.

In a press briefing, PSE president Ernest Leung said the board agreed to extend the trading hours, which currently starts at 9:30 in the morning and ends at noon, from 1 to 2:30 p.m.

The original target date for the extended trading hours was Feb. 12, in time for the Chinese New Year, but was later on changed to Feb. 18.

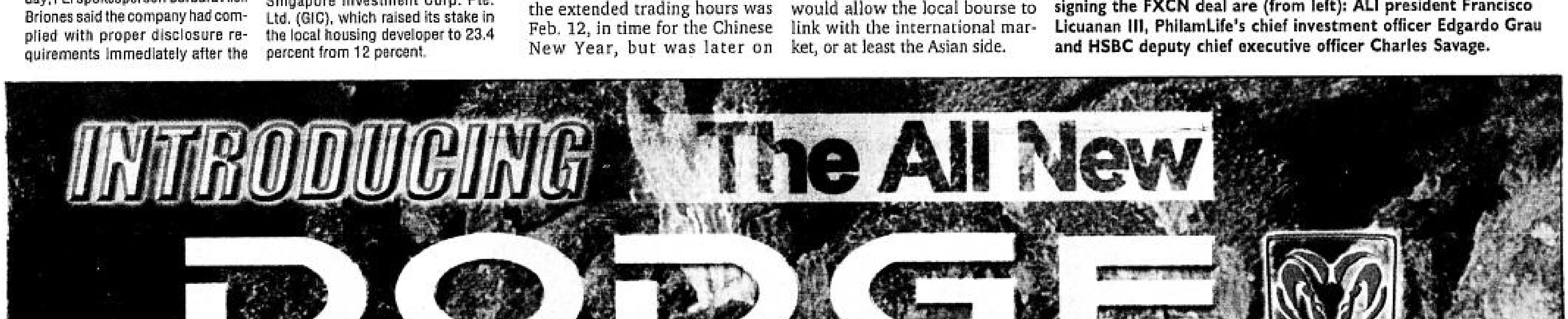
Brokers believed that the extension of trading hours was timely in view of improving investor interest in the local stock market. Foreign brokers even wanted to lengthen the trading hours to 4 p.m. in order to overlap with the European market.

"The longer trading hours give more opportunities. In some of the records I looked at, there are quite a number of bids and offers that are not closed at the end of the day," Leung said.

"If we extended the trading hours, there would have been better matching of orders," Leung said.

The PSE president also noted that the longer trading hours would allow the local bourse to link with the international market, or at least the Asian side.

AYALA LAND BORROWING
Ayala Land Inc. successfully issued P1.06 billion in fixed rate corporate notes, marking the company's reentry into the Philippine peso capital markets after five years. HSBC was the sole bookrunner and arranger of ALI's issuance. In a huddle after signing the FXCN deal are (from left): ALI president Francisco Licuanan III, PhilamLife's chief investment officer Edgardo Grau and HSBC deputy chief executive officer Charles Savage.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Zero 'capon' bond

BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Banal III

IT'S circus time again in the Senate. I'm sure I speak for all Filipinos who are at least 5-foot tall, with pleasing personality and good moral character, when I say, "So what?"

We, Filipinos, are such diehard circus fans that we look up to our beloved senators as clowns. Starring in the ongoing circus are the "zero coupon bonds."

Those are not Burmese words for: "Can we eat whatever it is they are talking about or is it just for pigs?" Actually, zero coupon bonds are IOUs of the government.

Everybody already knows the issue. That is, everybody except most of the other senators. They would rather keep quiet for fear of showing their real IQ.

The circus featuring the zero coupon bonds is not an ordinary show. You need a bit of financial savvy to enjoy it. That's why media people are lost.

Thus, a couple of senators can simply invent all sorts of crime, announce them to media and then point at many people as the perpetrators. Media laps everything.

As of last count, the guilty already reached a number equal roughly to half the population of Singapore, plus one-third of China.

* * *

THAT'S why plunder is the latest in the series of crimes. Those people connived to commit the crime against the People of the Philippines, including the Dancing Queen.

But in the beginning, it was a simple issue. A certain senator was fed some information by a group connected with the ousted man named Band . . . Wrist Band.

Involved was a group known as CODE-NGO. It turns out that CODE-NGO did the unthinkable. It made a lot of money. Making money, for NGOs, is simply not acceptable.

By definition, an NGO must beg the government for funding. Yet this CODE-NGO had the gall to use financial savvy to trade in bonds and earn from it.

It's all right for banks and taipans to make huge fortunes by trading in financial papers. It's business. It's not all right for NGOs because they only serve the poor.

Since CODE-NGO erred by making money, the Senate must castrate whoever had anything to do with the zero coupon bonds. What's that—zero capon bond?

But who is complaining here? It's the senator. So who is hearing the issue. It's also the senator? So who decides the outcome. Why, none other than the senator.

* * *

BELIEVE me, no matter how you explain the whole thing, the senator can and will always find something wrong. It's what we know as a "moving target."

At first, since any NGO has no business making money like banks and taipans do, the first crime was, well, it made a lot of money at the expense of the government.

Niluto sa sariling mantika, was how the deal was first described. Translation: The government was stupid, corrupt and impotent.

Actually, the government was the biggest gainer in the deal. It was going to borrow, anyway, whether or not the P10-billion zero coupon bonds came into being.

That P10 billion went to the government to pay for much-needed things, like all the perks and the foreign trips of senators. The government already used it up.

It's just right, therefore, that the government pays interest on the money it has already spent. This has always been the practice even during the Marcos dictatorship.

Still, thanks to the zero coupon bonds, the government even saved a lot of money for interest payments. Thus, the *mantika* argument went pffft.

* * *

THE NEXT accusation was that the bidding was "rigged." All right, it's always easy to rig a bidding in which some 15 greedy covetous banks, all hungry for profits, took part.

Come on, boss. The results showed that the bids were not that far apart. That's rigging? It was, in short, a highly competitive bidding. All of them bidded to win.

To me, the bidding is the ultimate test of fairness, and it automatically erases the insinuation of influence peddling (for CODE-NGO) or favoritism (for public officials).

At the end of the day, if the eventual winner, RCBC, which brokered for CODE-NGO, lost in the bidding, all the pre-bidding work of CODE-NGO would be for nothing.

As I said, the fastest in the series of accusations was plunder. Finance Secretary Jose Isidro "the Whiz" Camacho, it was claimed, committed plunder.

All right, does that mean the Whiz will have to stay at the Veterans Hospital? Maybe somebody is getting lonely. Sadly, the Whiz does not drink, smoke or womanize.

* * *

ANYWAY, all media reports, without a single exception, whether in print or in electronics, highlighted the accusation of plunder.

That new improved crime, it seems, came about because of certain tax features of the bonds. They were, supposedly, exempted from taxes. Not true!

Actually, the bonds were not subject to the 20-percent withholding tax. This holds true, under the law, for any debt paper that's not issued to the public—like the bonds.

But then, those same bonds are subject to the 32-percent income tax. This will nevertheless have to be paid upon maturity, which is about 10 years from now.

Moreover, the amount of the tax will have to be computed like any other income tax. That is, with all income (i.e., overpricing) minus the expenses (i.e., nightclubs).

That's one reason why a banker called the whole thing as an "oversimplification." He was actually being kind.

To me, if the case of "scam cum plunder" was based on wrong computations, plus a sprinkling of wrong assumptions, there's no other term for it but moronic.

* * *

HERE'S how I take the tax angle of the bonds. We actually have two issues here. One involves the tax on the interest income from the bonds and the other on trading gains.

As I said, the interest income will be realized after 10 years upon maturity. No question about exemption or what! Whoever holds the bonds by then must pay.

On the trading gains, nevertheless, that's where CODE-NGO steps into the picture. It made the money by trading on the bond. Does it or does it not pay taxes?

According to the BIR, the law itself provides exemption for debt papers that mature in five years or longer. Why, just like the very same bonds in the plunder case!

In other words, no one gave no favors to nobody no how. Meaning, contrary to the insinuation, CODE-NGO and RCBC did not have to reinvent the wheel.

It's just that all the suspicion of the complainant, judge and juror—all rolled into one—gets more prominence in media, with or without proof. Fair enough!

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Grand V. 2.5 AT	1,330,000	246,000	25,806
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Gov't lists options on sale of stake in PNOC Exploration

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE MACAPAGAL administration has set three options in privatizing this year part of the government's stake in the exploration subsidiary of Philippine National Oil Co.

Energy Secretary Vincent Perez Jr. told reporters during yesterday's economic briefing that three options were to be presented to the PNOC board in its meeting yesterday.

Perez said the first option was to re-offer a bigger portion of PNOC Exploration Corp. (PNOC-EC), which is listed on the Philippine Stock Exchange. PNOC-EC shares had been dormant since their listing three years ago because only 1.5 percent of the firm's total capital was listed.

Another alternative was to spin off PNOC-EC's 10-percent stake in the $2-billion Malampaya natural gas project and create a new company that would hold an initial public offering.

But the most attractive option, according to Perez, was to separate the assets of PNOC-EC from its interest in the Malampaya project, leave the Malampaya stake with the exploration arm and re-issue shares of the PNOC subsidiary.

"This option would be a pure Malampaya play so it would be very attractive to investors. It would be easier also since PNOC-EC already has a three-year track record and it would mean that the government could retain an upside value in other projects like the new gas find in Victoria, Tarlac," Perez said.

The energy official noted that further drilling needed to be conducted to determine whether the Victoria onshore well would yield commercial quantities of natural gas comparable to the 3.4 trillion cubic feet of gas in Malampaya.

He encouraged private sector investors to take part in the Victoria drilling as well as in other oil exploration projects being pursued by PNOC.

"The government is just a catalyst and a pathfinder. I urge the private sector to invest and take the lead whether in the downstream or upstream development of natural gas," Perez said.

The energy secretary clarified that the planned privatization of PNOC-EC this year was not related to the plan to securitize $16 billion in government earnings from the Malampaya project for the next 20 years starting 2002.

Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho earlier said the government was expecting to generate as much as $30 billion in royalties from Malampaya income taxes to be paid by companies involved in the gas-to-power project, and also the sale of the government's stake in the Malampaya through the privatization of PNOC.

The government is also planning to pursue the securitization this year of part of the earnings from the Malampaya natural gas project to raise at least $500 million and help plug a P130-billion budget deficit for 2002.

Camacho said the government had received proposals from four investment banks to handle a bond issue to be backed by part of the expected earnings from the Malampaya project over the next 20 years.

The proposals came from ING, Lehman Brothers, Credit Lyonnaise, and Morgan Stanley Dean Witter.

The investment banks, according to another finance official, have proposed to raise at least $1 billion from the securitization but Camacho wanted to keep the fund-raising modest at only $500 million.

Before the Malampaya-backed borrowing could push through, Camacho said the government must first resolve the royalty-sharing agreement with the local government of Palawan.

It should also wait for the implementing rules of the Electricity Power Industry Reform Act to see if no provisions would conflict with the planned securitization.

The Malampaya project is 90-percent owned by the Royal Dutch Shell group and US firm Texaco Corp. (with 45 percent each). State-run PNOC-EC holds a 10-percent stake in the project. It started operating in the middle of 2001.

The consortium spent $2 billion to develop 3.4 trillion cubic feet of natural gas in Malampaya and put up an offshore, high pressure gas pipeline from Palawan to Tabangao, Batangas.

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NTC eyes out-of-court deal with telecom firms

By Abigail L. Ho

THE NATIONAL Telecommunications Commission said it still could not implement a highly contested memorandum circular as the country's cellular giants have expressed their intention to take the case to the Supreme Court.

NTC chief Eliseo Rio Jr. said in an interview yesterday that cellular service providers Globe Telecom Inc., Smart Communications Inc. and their subsidiaries Isla Communication Inc. and Pilipino Telephone Corp. were preparing to file a motion to contest the Court of Appeals decision favoring the NTC.

"So far, the (telecommunications companies) have made no moves yet. They still haven't filed a motion for reconsideration, but they've already indicated that they'll file a motion for reconsideration with the Supreme Court," he said.

Despite this, Rio said the NTC would continue its efforts to settle the case out of court.

"It's almost definite that they'll go up to the Supreme Court, but that won't stop parallel efforts to settle this out of court," he said.

While holding meetings with the cellular service providers, Rio said public hearings would also be conducted so the consumers would be aware of what was happening behind the scenes.

"We'll probably call for a public hearing to settle this so there'll be transparency," he added.

Almost two years ago, the NTC came up with a memorandum circular that would, among others, change the existing per-minute charging scheme to the per-six-second-pulse charging scheme.

The carriers did not agree to this, citing the "set-up time" as their reason.

The set-up time refers to the ringing time or the time when the call has already been connected, but the two parties have not started talking yet.

Rio said in an earlier interview that the cellular phone firms would agree to the per-six-second-pulse charging if this would be done only on the third minute.

The NTC, on the other hand, said that if the new billing scheme could not be implemented from the start of a call, it wanted it to start after the first 30 seconds into a call.

This was but one of the issues that the NTC was trying to settle with the telecom firms out of court, Rio said.

Smart and Globe have until the end of the month and the first week of March to file their motion for reconsideration with the Supreme Court.

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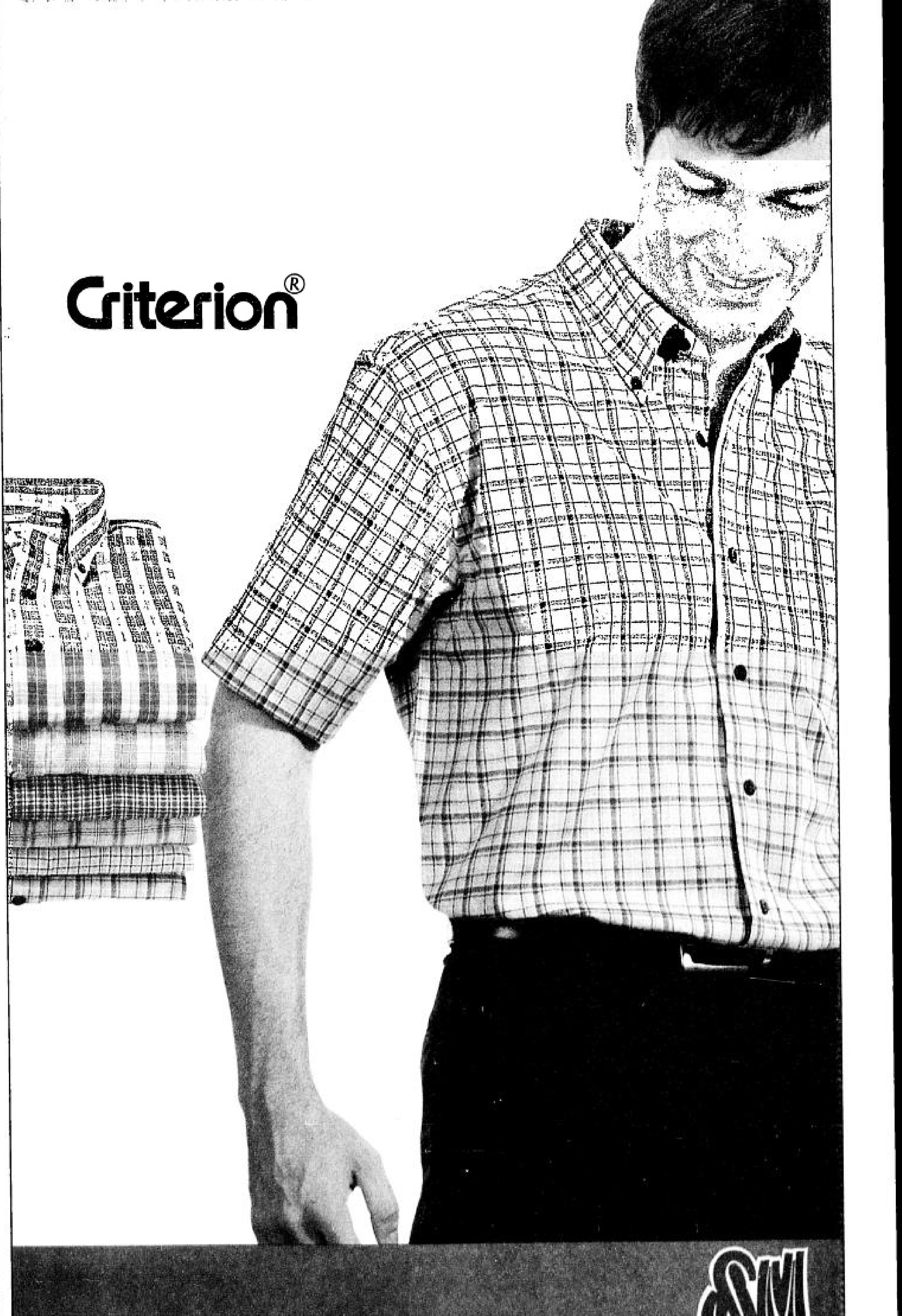

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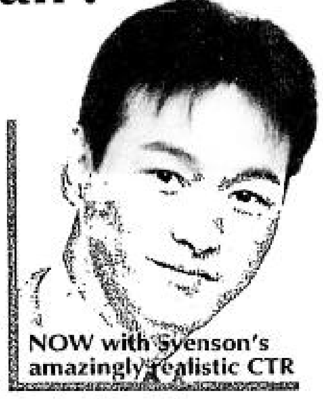
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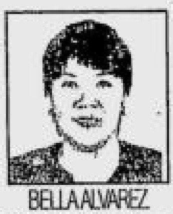
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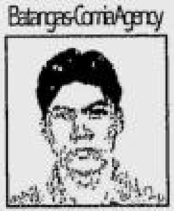
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Drilling perks up oil stocks

By Ronnel W. Domingo

SHARES of publicly listed local oil firms went up by at least 20 percent yesterday after the government announced that natural gas flowed from the Victoria prospect in Tarlac.

Joey Roxas, president of Eagle Equities, said in a telephone interview that the excitement in trading was visible although not surprising.

"But we still cannot tell whether this would affect the market significantly as investors await confirmation whether (the Victoria reserve) is viable," Roxas said.

Six listed firms originally held the geophysical survey exploration contract for the Victoria prospect before state-owned Philippine National Oil Co. took over.

These were Anglo-Philippines Holdings Corp., Basic Consolidated Mining Corp., Oriental Petroleum and Minerals Corp., Vulcan Industrial and Mining Corp., Philodrill Corp. and San Jose Oil.

Late last month, a PNOC official told the INQUIRER that project operator PNOC Energy Development Corp. held 85 percent of the venture while PNOC Exploration Corp. had 15 percent.

"The six firms are no longer involved in Victoria although they have an option to buy back into the venture," he said.

The official explained that PNOC had signed agreements with the firms allowing them to buy back an aggregate stake of up to 10 percent.

Yesterday, Vulcan Industrial president Patrick Caoile said they have yet to decide on whether or not to buy back a stake in the Victoria project.

"We will base our decision on whether Victoria is commercially viable, which further tests would determine," Caoile said in a telephone interview.

He said they have not received a report on this from PNOC.

On the other hand, PNOC-EC external relations officer Rudolph Dimen said further tests on the Victoria gas flow would take at least two weeks to yield results.

"We expect to come out with a report by March," Dimen said. "Upon receipt of this report, the six firms have 30 days to decide if they want to buy back."

PNOC aims to prove the presence of 308.7 billion cubic feet of natural gas in the Victoria prospect.

If and when this is proved, the state firm plans to develop 15 production wells to support a 230-megawatt power plant worth $230 million.

Sanctions . . .

From page B1

Roxas stressed that the results were merely based on raw data from the survey and was not an in-depth study of the actual lending rates offered by banks to their clients.

"We could penalize them similar to what we had done to the forex (dealers) that were found to be misreporting their foreign exchange transactions," the BSP official said.

The central bank imposes a fine of not more than P30,000 a day for every irregular transaction. It could also suspend a bank's license on foreign exchange, derivatives and trust. Erring banks could also be barred from availing themselves of emergency loans and other BSP windows for liquidity assistance.

But the BSP insisted that it had not decided on any particular action and options remained sketchy for the meantime.

"By law there is nothing we can do but we will exercise strong moral suasion," BSP Governor Rafael Buenaventura said. He explained that no law prohibits banks from determining their own lending and deposit rates and most lenders were guided by competition.

BSP Deputy Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. said it would be difficult to impose penalties when lending rates were guided by competition in the market.

"But we are reviewing the rates to see whether the drop in BSP overnight rates and the treasury bill rates have been reflected in bank lending rates," Tetangco said.

Yesterday, most banks have brought down their lending rates based on a daily informal survey of the BSP. But even the central bank knows that the rates that lenders report and their actual charges were different.

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Citystate Savings Bank	14.25	14.25	14.25	14.25	2,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	28.5	29.5	28.5	29	266,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	210	211	210	210	61,680
Philippine National Bank	77	77	76.5	76.5	10,100
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	12.75	12.75	12.75	12.75	6,000
Security Bank Corp.	18.5	19	18.5	19	20,200
Union Bank of the Phil.	19.5	19.5	19	19.25	26,700
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Bankard Inc.	1.26	1.26	1.26	1.26	10,000
Filipino Fund Inc.	0.35	0.36	0.35	0.36	500,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1335	1340	1335	1340	80
Sun Life Financial Serv.	1010	1025	1010	1025	20,620
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	30	30.5	30	30.5	11,300
Digital Telecom Phils. Inc.	0.68	0.68	0.65	0.67	8,090,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	765	765	760	760	20,610
Ipeople Inc.	0.8	0.85	0.8	0.8	170,000
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.039	0.039	0.038	0.039	5,500,000
Piltel	0.56	0.59	0.55	0.58	9,080,000
Phil. Telegraph & Tel. Co.	0.38	0.38	0.38	0.38	30,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	510	515	510	515	35,790
Ivantage Corp.	0.52	0.52	0.52	0.52	150,000
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.023	0.023	0.022	0.022	61,700,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	27	29	27	28.5	117,200
Manila Electric Co. B	39.5	41.5	39.5	41	1,329,900
Petron Corp.	1.88	1.88	1.86	1.88	4,778,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.94	0.99	0.94	0.99	270,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.06	1.06	1.06	1.06	8,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	3	3.1	2.95	3.05	3,443,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.34	0.34	0.34	0.34	370,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Alsons Cement Corp.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	30,000
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.33	0.34	0.33	0.34	420,000
Union Cement Corp.	0.67	0.67	0.67	0.67	2,150,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Jollibee Foods Corp.	14.5	14.5	14.5	14.5	78,500
La Tondeña Distillers Inc.	23.75	23.75	23.5	23.5	62,000
RFM Corp.	1.42	1.48	1.42	1.46	452,000
San Miguel Corp. A	48.5	49	48.5	48.5	246,900
San Miguel Corp. B	65	66	65	65.5	208,000
Vitarich Corp.	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	200,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Ayala Corp.	6.4	6.4	6.3	6.4	11,919,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	1.84	1.94	1.84	1.94	1,381,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.82	0.85	0.82	0.85	400,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.008	0.0085	0.008	0.008	110,000,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.27	0.29	0.25	0.29	6,630,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	2.3	2.3	2.3	2.3	10,000
Balabac Resources & Hldgs.	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	20,000
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.22	0.23	0.22	0.23	520,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.79	0.8	0.78	0.79	7,020,000
A Brown Company Inc.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	500,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.16	0.185	0.16	0.18	8,700,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.39	0.4	0.39	0.4	10,070,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.3	0.37	0.3	0.37	16,350,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.02	1.06	1	1.06	1,736,000
First Phil Hldgs. Corp.	30.5	30.5	30	30	410,700
Forum Pacific Inc.	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	100,000
Global Equities Inc.	0.175	0.175	0.17	0.175	1,760,000
Ionics Inc.	8.6	8.6	8.4	8.4	25,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.86	1.88	1.84	1.88	565,000
Keppel Phil. Holdings	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	10,000
Keppel Phil. Holdings B	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	60,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.85	0.88	0.84	0.88	4,330,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.36	0.39	0.36	0.39	6,380,000
Music Corp.	0.33	0.33	0.33	0.33	2,020,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.195	0.22	0.195	0.22	3,220,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	0.85	0.86	0.85	0.85	290,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.37	0.38	0.37	0.38	950,000
Unioil Res. & Holdings Co.	0.05	0.065	0.05	0.065	200,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.17	0.18	0.17	0.18	1,230,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.34	0.34	0.34	0.34	50,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Corro-Coat Inc.	1.42	1.42	1.42	1.42	10,000
Metro Alliance Holdings	0.36	0.43	0.35	0.35	30,120,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	20,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.08	0.08	0.08	0.08	700,000
Pryce Corp.	0.075	0.08	0.075	0.08	500,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	14.75	15	14.75	15	149,700
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.45	0.45	0.44	0.45	1,750,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.58	0.58	0.58	0.58	110,000
Mondragon Intl Phils. Inc.	0.49	0.49	0.46	0.46	210,000
Philippine Racing Club	4.3	4.3	4.3	4.3	48,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	31	31	30.5	30.5	50,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.-Pref.	720	750	720	750	2,650
Omico Corp. Warrant	0.0014	0.0014	0.0014	0.0014	30,000,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series T	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	1,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series V	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	1,300
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	1,400
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Z	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	3,500
PLDT 10% Pref Series Aa	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	600
PLDT 10% Pref Series Bb	10	10	10	10	1,000
Philweb.Com Inc.-Warrants	0.006	0.006	0.006	0.006	6,000,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	6.6	6.6	6.5	6.6	19,351,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.27	0.28	0.27	0.28	2,400,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.49	0.56	0.49	0.56	31,960,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.32	0.32	0.31	0.32	6,470,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	2.06	2.16	2.04	2.16	13,390,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.27	0.3	0.27	0.3	2,700,000
MRC Allied Ind. Inc.	0.23	0.23	0.23	0.23	210,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	1.86	1.9	1.86	1.9	10,000
Phil Realty and Holdings	0.09	0.09	0.09	0.09	200,000
SM Development Corp.	0.97	0.97	0.96	0.96	90,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	6.6	6.6	6.5	6.6	1,781,000
Urbancorp Realty Dev. Inc.	0.185	0.185	0.185	0.185	50,000
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	0.34	0.34	0.34	0.34	80,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc. B	0.34	0.34	0.34	0.34	30,000
Dizon Copper Silver Mines	1.84	1.84	1.84	1.84	11,000
Itogon-Suyoc Mines A	0.043	0.044	0.043	0.043	24,100,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.225	0.225	0.215	0.22	680,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co. B	0.225	0.225	0.225	0.225	5,070,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.0046	0.0046	0.0046	0.0046	1,000,000
Omico Corp.	0.0042	0.0042	0.0042	0.0042	10,000,000
Polar Mines & Dev't Corp.	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	4,100,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.27	0.28	0.27	0.27	550,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	420,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.021	0.021	0.02	0.02	5,800,000
Interport Res.	0.0042	0.0046	0.0042	0.0046	8,000,000
Interport Res. B	0.004	0.004	0.004	0.004	1,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0065	0.0075	0.0065	0.007	1,105,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0065	0.0075	0.0065	0.007	448,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	0.28	0.3	0.28	0.3	940,000
Pacifica	0.017	0.017	0.017	0.017	18,800,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.08	0.08	0.0775	0.08	600,000
South China Resources Inc.	0.22	0.24	0.22	0.24	330,000
Vulcan Ind'l.	0.225	0.29	0.225	0.29	12,040,000

	SHARES	VALUE (P)
Banks & Fin Svc	1,100,380	55,008,600.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	365,487,050	294,455,720.00
PRO	78,612,000	188,211,310.00
Mining	46,041,000	2,800,940.00
OIL	1,600,510,000	14,603,650.00
GRAND TOTALS:	2,091,773,430	555,128,220.00

AVERAGES		
Banks & Fin Svc	564.06	UP 1.13
Comm'l & Ind'l	1,893.48	UP 13.81
PRO	601.94	DOWN 0.41
Mining	1,430.25	UNCH 0.00
OIL	2.32	UP 0.44
All Shares Index	744.04	DOWN 2.89
Composite	1,388.64	UP 6.23

NO. OF ADVANCES: 58; NO. OF DECLINES: 21; NO. OF UNCHANGED: 44;
NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 123; NO. OF TRADES: 3,551

CURRENCIES

Feb. 13, 2002

Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.140251	1.000000	51.3410
Japan	Yen	0.008599	0.007541	0.3872
United Kingdom	Pound	1.636032	1.434800	73.6641
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.146374	0.128370	6.5906
Switzerland	Franc	0.676266	0.593085	30.4496
Canada	Dollar	0.716779	0.628615	32.2737
Singapore	Dollar	0.623531	0.546837	28.0752
Australia	Dollar	0.579101	0.507872	26.0747
Bahrain	Dinar	3.024699	2.652661	136.1903
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.304067	0.266667	13.6910
Brunei	Dollar	0.621323	0.544900	27.9757
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000112	0.000098	0.0050
Thailand	Baht	0.026044	0.022841	1.1727
UAE	Dirham	0.310526	0.272331	13.9817
Korea	Won	0.000870	0.000763	0.0392
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.877000	45.0261
Brazil	Real	0.465408	0.408163	20.9555
Denmark	Kroner	0.134626	0.118067	6.0617
India	Rupee	0.023511	0.020619	1.0586
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.300066	0.263158	13.5108
Mexico	New Peso	0.125842	0.110363	5.6661
New Zealand	Dollar	0.476893	0.418235	21.4726
Norway	Kroner	0.127816	0.112095	5.7551
Pakistan	Rupee	0.019035	0.016694	0.8571
South Africa	Rand	0.100197	0.087873	4.5115
Sweden	Kroner	0.107999	0.094715	4.8628
Syria	Pound	0.022227	0.019493	1.0008
Taiwan	NT Dollar	0.032597	0.028588	1.4677
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.001434	0.001258	0.0646

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SHARP CORPORATION OSAKA, JAPAN

Texas Instruments embarking on ₱3-B expansion

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

TEXAS Instruments Philippines Inc. (Tipi) has decided to resume its expansion plans in the country, apparently buoyed by the renewed expectations of a recovery in the US economy in the second half this year.

The Philippine Economic Zone Authority (Peza) has granted fiscal incentives to Tipi for its P3.324-billion expansion project to increase the output of its quad flat pack production inside the Baguio City Economic Zone. Tipi said the expansion project would create 146 new jobs and generate average export sales of $401.729 million yearly.

Tipi president and managing director Norberto Viera earlier said the company had deferred its planned expansion projects in the country slated last year to 2003 due to the uncertain outlook on the electronics industry following the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks in New York and Washington.

Viera also announced in October a cutback in its workforce and a gloomy export growth projection.

The expansion project would have increased Texas Instrument's production of semiconductor and other materials used for broadband, switching and Internet equipment.

The recent economic data from the United States, which showed better-than-expected sales of electronic products in the fourth quarter of last year, have bolstered analysts' expectations that the US economy, Tipi's main market, will recover later this year.

Aside from Tipi, several electronic firms have decided to pursue their expansion programs in the country and sought fiscal incentives from Peza.

Integrated Microelectronics Inc., the chip making arm of the Ayala group, is spending a total of P742 million this year to produce digital versatile drive-read only memory (DVD-ROM) units and small signal transistors in its plant in Laguna.

Other electronic projects approved by Peza are Remec Manufacturing Philippines Inc. (P1.196 billion), Luzon Electronics Technology Inc. (P226 million) and Ryonan Electric Philippines Corp. (P71.635 million).

Despite the resurgence in investments by electronic firms, Peza reported that its investments plunged 79.54 percent to P702 million in January this year from P3.432 billion a year ago. The projects of Tipi, Remec and IMI were approved in December last year.

Congress defers power plant universal charge

THE JOINT congressional power commission has decided to defer for four years the implementation of a universal charge on hotels, hospitals, shopping malls and other establishments with standby power plants.

The Electric Power Industry Reform Act provides for the collection of a universal charge that will allow the National Power Corp. to cover recovery costs even after its privatization. These costs are from contracts between the state-run power firm and independent power producers, maturing loans and other obligations.

Sen. Renato Cayetano said in a statement yesterday that the congressional power commission decided to defer the implementation of this universal charge after it received complaints from business and consumer groups affected by it.

Cayetano said new and uncompleted facilities with their own power generators were also granted a four-year deferment. These facilities, however, were required to apply for deferment with the Energy Regulatory Commission and the Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corp.

Cayetano said household generators for the exclusive use of homeowners were exempted from paying the universal charge.

"We provided an interim relief until after the law has been amended to answer for the complaints of owners of self-generating facilities," he said.

The decision was part of the congressional power commission's deliberation on the power reform law's implementing rules.

Energy officials have been awaiting the approval of these rules as these would allow other factors for National Power Corp.'s privatization to push through.

Insurance firm posts 167% increase in sales

By Elena R. Torrijos

THE PHILIPPINE unit of American life insurance giant John Hancock posted a 167-percent increase in its first-year premiums last year to P65 million from previous year's level.

This, according to John Hancock Life Insurance Corp. president and CEO Mike Plaxton, can be attributed to the introduction of a new product and the implementation of an aggressive marketing program.

Plaxton said the company was targeting to triple last year's new premium sales this year.

Plaxton attributed the robust 2001 sales performance to the establishment of signature partners, a program to get successful entrepreneurs to offer John Hancock insurance products by leveraging on the network of existing businesses in other fields.

The program, set up in November, accounted for 20 percent of the company's first-year sales for the month of December alone.

Plaxton said that new products would be offered this year to complement the seven to eight plans currently offered by the company. Moreover, the Philippine unit hopes to tie up with a bank soon for bancassurance wherein banks earn from the sale of insurance policies sold through their branch and other networks.

John Hancock Phils. was launched in August 1997. It now operates in Bacolod, Davao, Pampanga, Cebu, Dagupan, Urdaneta and Baguio aside from Metro Manila.

Tobacco firm sees more losses

THE PHILIPPINE Tobacco Flue Curing & Redrying Corp. (PTFC) has been losing money in the past three years and does not expect its business to recover in the foreseeable future.

The company said in a statement that it has to get out of its traditional business to cut its losses. It said its tobacco sales in the past three years were not even enough to cover expenses.

In 1999, cost of sales exceeded tobacco sales by roughly P2 million. In the following two years, the gap between revenues and expenses grew. Sales in 2000 and 2001 registered at P126 million and P47 million, while expenses jumped to P150 million and P68 million, respectively.

Last year, volume dropped so low that revenues were just a third of that posted in 2000. The company said it expected the situation to worsen this year, hence its decision to phase out its tobacco operations.

The company said it would keep its equipment on mothballed status to allow it to resume operations should business prospects improve.

The company has earmarked P9 million to cover the separation of 348 employees in its tobacco business, 320 of which are seasonal workers.

One-woman show now a thriving firm

By Abigail L. Ho

SUCCESS STORY

ORTIZ and her cards

WITHOUT any formal training in business, Marlyn Ortiz followed her instincts and the dictates of her heart, and established the country's first-ever all-Filipino guarantor card company at the age of 24.

MMO Card Corp., Ortiz's brainchild, was borne out of her thirst to build something from scratch. When she started the business in 1976, only five Makati stores honored her card.

During that time, some stores, like retail chain magnate Henry Sy's SM, already had their own guarantor cards. Under the guarantor system, storeowners sold merchandise to customers using their individual store cards.

A guarantor card is similar to a credit card but it is exclusive to a particular store. Another difference is that payment for charges is made in four equal installments payable every payday, much like the Filipinos' "gives" mentality.

One-woman show

From only five merchants in 1976, the MMO Card now has over 300 merchants, including National Bookstore, Mercury Drug, Robinsons, Abenson and Rustans. An MMO cardholder can also purchase movie tickets at all Ayala Cinemas and Robinsons Movieworld outlets with the card, a first in the industry.

Ortiz added that the company already has more than 50,000 loyal subscribers all over Metro Manila, accumulated over 25 years of operations. All of these subscribers, she said with pride, came to know about the card merely by word of mouth.

"When I was just starting, I did everything myself. I was the agent who scouted for prospective merchants, I was the one who offered the card to prospective subscribers and I was also the collecting agent who went to each of the subscribers every payday to get their payments," she said.

That one-woman show is now a small family corporation with around 130 employees. But the road to success was not an easy one for Ortiz.

She was introduced to the guarantor card business by an aunt whose daughter was one of Manila's more popular guarantors in the '70s.

With only five merchants when she started, Ortiz had a different card for each of her merchants. She had one each for shoe stores Milani, Ohrelle, Le Donne, Fiorelli and Bianca Rizzi.

Grabbing an opportunity

As she got the hang of the business, she also started getting more merchants. Her laminated paper cards for each merchant store became inadequate. Ortiz then thought of consolidating all of these merchants in a single card, similar to the traditional credit cards.

The M.M. Ortiz Card, or the MMO Card, was then created in the early 1980s. This gained acceptance among mostly young professionals and housewives who could not afford to get the traditional credit cards.

"I saw the opportunity so I decided to grab it. I thought that if somebody sees this opportunity, too, he might grab it for himself, so I took the risk," she said.

Humble beginnings

Before she became a guarantor, Ortiz worked in a photo shop at the Hotel Intercontinental where she earned P300 to P500 a month.

She said that her wardrobe then was composed of only five different outfits—one each for the five working days.

"I should have framed those clothes so I could hang them in my office for people to see. It can serve as a proof that one can be successful even if he starts from scratch," she said.

While working, Ortiz was also studying in the evenings at the Adamson University taking up chemical engineering.

Given a choice, she said she would not have decided to take on the role of a working student, but the death of her father when she was only 6 years old did not give her too many options.

"I had to work because my father died when I was 6 and I had three siblings after me. We were used to a comfortable life, so that was a difficult adjustment for us. I think I got my strength from that particular aspect of my life. I also took on a leadership role early in life as I was the eldest," she said.

Edge over others

Her street-smart behavior, honed over years of coping without a father and with a young widowed mother and three siblings, gave her an edge over other aspiring young entrepreneurs. She quit college after her fourth year and decided to earn her own money instead.

She said she had to read business books to give her a feel of what she had gotten herself into.

"I don't know how many business books I have read. I always buy books and I read them all. I believe one should never stop learning, not only in business but in life as well," she said.

She added that she led her people by example and that her relationship with her employees was based on trust and the fact that she knew where they were coming from, having been through a difficult life herself.

"My philosophy is that you reap what you sow. My merchants, when I was just starting, gave me their trust. Now I'm giving my people that same trust. I believe that when you love your neighbor as yourself, you succeed with your people and in your business," she said.

With no background in business, she had to learn the ropes the hard way: through patience and sheer hard work. But it paid off for Ortiz.

The MMO Card will be expanding to areas outside Metro Manila in the near future and this because she never let her lack of a formal business education hinder her from taking the risk and grabbing every opportunity that comes her way.

SPECIAL PURPOSE TRUST ESTABLISHED
The Development Bank of the Philippines and the Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines or Ulap signed recently a trust agreement for the setting up of a special purpose trust (SPT) that will pave the way for the securitization and monetization of the Internal Revenue Allotments (IRA) of local government units. The agreement was signed by (second from left) Ulap president and Davao del Norte Gov. Rodolfo P. del Rosario and DBP chair Vitaliano Nañagas II (right). It was witnessed by Local Government Undersecretary Alipio Fernandez and Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho.

Gov't sees brighter prospects for economy

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE MACAPAGAL administration's economic team is keeping its projection of an economic recovery this year, stressing that growth forecasts may further improve if the inflation rate will remain favorable.

In a media briefing yesterday, the economic team said it would hold a series of roadshows in Cebu and Davao to update businesses in these regions on the achievements of the administration and to keep them abreast of the economic prospects this year.

The press conference followed a briefing for investors conducted by Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho, Trade Secretary Mar Roxas II, Budget Secretary Emily Boncodin, Energy Secretary Vincent Perez Jr., Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Deputy Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. and National Economic and Development Authority Deputy Director General Gilbert Llanto.

While the economic team, said Boncodin, has taken a "cautious" stance in making its projections, it was also standing pat on a growth forecast of 4 to 4.5 percent for gross domestic product and its other macroeconomic projections.

Llanto said the inter-agency Development Budget and Coordination Council was looking into the possibility of adjusting the inflation target to a range of 4 to 5 percent from a range of 5 to 6 percent given expectations that prices of basic goods will remain stable. The DBCC will decide on this in late March or early April, said Tetangco.

An adjustment in the inflation outlook will lead to a similar revision in the other macroeconomic numbers including the GDP.

The economic team also said it would keep its "cautious" stance on its economic projections this year since they were hinged largely on the rebound of the US economy.

Llanto explained that when the 2002 targets were made, it took into consideration projections that the US economy would recover in the first semester.

"There is a two-quarter lag between the US takeoff and its impact on the local economy," said Llanto.

Tetangco said monetary authorities believed that the inflation outlook would remain favorable. This, he said, would give the policy-making Monetary Board the flexibility to bring down its policy rates further from present levels, 7.5 percent for overnight borrowing and 9.75 percent for overnight lending.

The Monetary Board is scheduled to act today on the recommendation of the central bank's advisory committee on the overnight rates.

While a source said the advisory committee was open to a quarter-of-a-percentage point reduction in rates, the board may take a more prudent stance and keep overnight rates unchanged.

Pre-need plan industry trims trust fund deficiency to ₱746M

By Elena R. Torrijos

THE PRE-NEED plan industry has been able to bring down its trust fund deficiency to P746 million as of October last year from P3.9 billion in 2000, the Securities and Exchange Commission has reported.

The SEC non-traditional securities department attributed the decline in the industry's deficiency to vigilant monitoring of trust fund balances and issuance of orders to concerned companies to fill up their deficiencies.

Trust funds are one of the critical components in the mechanism designed to guarantee the capability of pre-need plan companies to meet their future obligation to plan holders. A deficiency means that the trust fund may not be enough to meet those obligations.

The SEC said the pre-need industry, which has some 50 active players, sold around P37.1 billion worth of plans last year, a 2.9-percent increase from the sales level recorded the previous year.

In terms of the number of plans sold, the industry registered a 10.4-percent rise to 640,700 plans.

The pre-need industry contributes to the acceleration of the country's economic development by pooling funds and channeling them as investments into various areas of productive economic and business activities.

Last year, of the P33-billion aggregate trust fund of the industry, 30.9 percent, or a little more than P10 billion, was used to buy government securities, 24 percent, or P8 billion, financed new business ventures or expansion, while 20.3 percent, or P6.7 billion, was placed in the development of real estate. The remainder of the fund was kept as cash in hand and in the bank, including marketable securities.

The SEC has adopted many new regulatory rules to strengthen the pre-need industry, among them limits on trust fund investments in stocks and real estate and a P100-million minimum capital requirement. At present, however, only 15 pre-need companies have met the capital requirement.

SEC Chair Lilia Bautista earlier said the SEC was now drafting another set of rules that would tighten monitoring on the valuation of actuarial reserve liabilities, a basis for the amount of funds to set aside for trust funds of pre-need plan companies.

Business cycle arbiter not ready to declare US recession is over

WASHINGTON—The official arbiter of US business cycles is not yet prepared to declare an end to the recession that began last March despite upbeat predictions from government and private economists.

The National Bureau of Economic Research's panel of six experts—designated the official judge of US business cycles—said in a statement Monday it was not yet prepared to declare a "trough" that would mark an end to the downturn.

"At some future date, the committee will determine the date of a trough in activity," the statement said. "The trough date will mark the end of the recession. The committee will not issue any judgment about whether the economy has reached a trough until it makes its formal decision on this point."

The NBER relies on monthly declines in output, trade and a variety of other indicators, unlike some economists who define a recession as a decline in gross domestic product for two consecutive quarters.

US GDP expanded at a rate of 0.2 percent in the fourth quarter, according to a preliminary government estimate, confounding many experts who had predicted a contraction.

But the NBER statement said data from January fail to show evidence of an upturn.

"The data continue to show substantial declines in real activity in manufacturing, the sector reflected in the industrial production index, and in real manufacturing and :rade sales," the NBER said.

"Aggregate employment has fallen substantially as well. Among the four indicators, only income has behaved differently over the past eight months from recession averages."

Still, it said the recession has been relatively mild.

"Despite the substantial decline in employment throughout the economy—equal in percentage terms to the declines seen in previous recessions—output fell less than is typical in a recession because of unusual productivity growth," the statement said.

The panel acknowledged that just as it did not declare until November that the economy had slipped into recession in March, it may not be able to quickly cite an end to the downturn, and will need evidence of a sustained recovery.

"The committee usually waits until activity has surpassed its previous peak before determining a trough date," the statement said.

"For example, the committee waited until December 1992 to announce that a trough had occurred in March 1991." *AFP*

US warns Japan cannot export way to recovery

TOKYO—US President George W. Bush will likely urge Japan's premier to pursue structural reforms during a visit next week while downplaying the role of exports in a recovery, according to a top White House economist.

"There's no way Japan can export itself out of its problem without fixing the non-performing assets and changing the monetary policy," Glenn Hubbard, chair of the Council of Economic Advisers, told Japanese reporters in Washington Tuesday.

The comments come before Bush meets Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi during a three-day trip to Tokyo, his first visit as US President, starting Sunday.

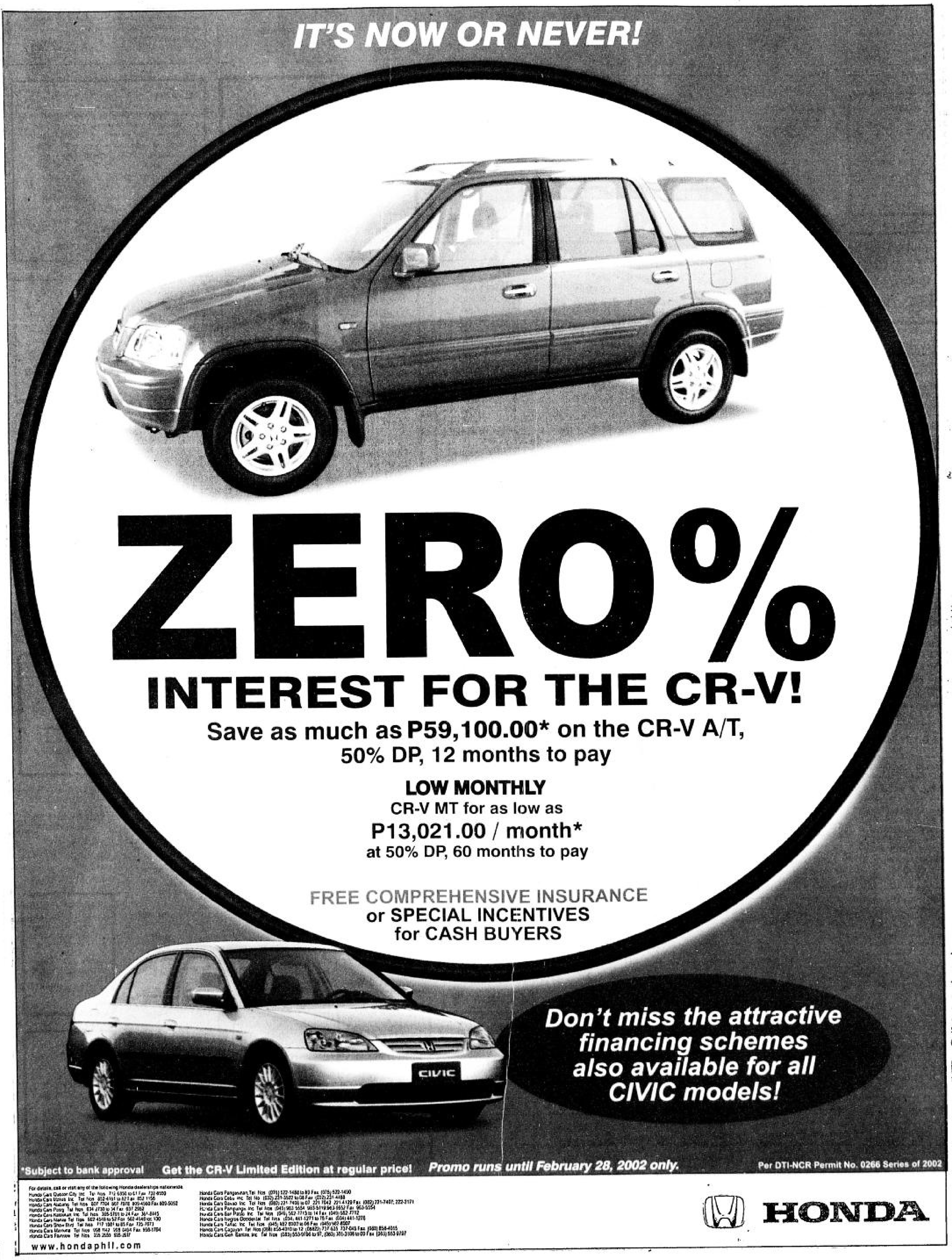
Bush would probably not use a forceful tone during the talks, Hubbard said.

"I think he will give quiet advice from a friend. I don't expect the president to use harsh words—that's not his style, that's not the way he does business with Japan," Hubbard said.

The Japanese economy is wallowing in recession for the third time in a decade, pressured by weak demand and persistent deflation, which the government is desperate to fight.

In December consumer prices—a key indicator of deflation or inflation—fell for the 28th straight month, down 1.2 percent from a year earlier.

Meanwhile, the government confirmed Wednesday Japan's revised gross domestic product shrank 0.5 percent over July-September from the previous quarter, when the world's second largest economy shrank 1.2 percent. *AFP*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HONDA

Sweet Nothings

Illin, Teresse,
Irish, & Dianne,
We are blessed with 4 lovely Angel daughters!
We love you mga Anak! HAPPY VALENTINES!
Papa Ed & Mama Bendinne

Dear Bunkaroo,
Thank you for all the love, tenderness, and lambing. You are my lover and my best friend.
Love you forever!!!
Puppy

HEART GREETINGS TO ANGELS

HI HEART OF 6 DAUGHTER, U CHONG[illegible]
TRIBUTE TO MY ANGELS # FRIENDS
ANA#ANNIE#ANIT#CECIL#CHI
#ELLA#FAYE#FERDS#HAZEL#[illegible]
[illegible]#IRISH#JANYS#JOAN#JOVY
JUDY#KRISTIN#MAE#MALENE#
MARICEL#MARICRIS#MYRA#PJ
TISH#TINTIN#VIDALYN#[illegible]
MACES#[illegible]#MANUS#[illegible]
ACE#AGNES#ANGELICA#ANIL
ANALISA#ARLENE#ARMIE#AST
#INGIA#CONCEL#CELIA#CORA#
DAISY#DING#DINGA#CONEDITH
ELENOR#ELIZABETH#ENRIQ[illegible]
FLOR#GAYS#GLENDA#GRACE#
#GZOH#HAZEL#ICON#ILEEN#IVY
JOHJOY#JULIA#LINDA#MARI
#MARISTEL#MELISSA#MICHEL
#M M#NETH#PAT#PAZ#PINKY
RUTH#SUSI#VIOL#YENG#YOLY
#TO ALL 6 ANGELS WHOSE NAMES
#FOREVER WRITTEN ON MY HEART

DADA - CHARLIE @YAHOO

Bochog,
Happy Heart's Day! Loving you is the best thing that ever happen to me. Love you with all my heart.
I Love You!
Always,
Porky

February 14, 2002
Dearest Jojo,
Thank you for being a loving and thoughtful husband to me.
The world for me is more beautiful with you by my side.
HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY!
I Love You Always.
Cynthia

PECKY,
It's no fun without you. May we go through life together until we grow really really old! Mai-Mai and David sends their hugs and kisses. They told me you like them.
I remain.
Very truly yours,
MELANIE

Ms. JANICE T. LANSANGAN,
Thank you for coming to my life...
I will always take care of you and will never hurt you...
You are my inspiration.
My life... I LOVE YOU more than you'll ever know...
HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY MY LOVE!
Always,
BENJIE MAGAT

Nanay NENE,
Happy Valentine sa pinakamaganda at pinakamabait na Nanay at Lola sa buong mundo!
We love you!
Eddie, Bendinne, IB, Ish, Kwik, and Dianne

February 14, 2002
To our loving, thoughtful & generous DAD-RUPERT.
You're the Best Father anyone could ever have!
WE LOVE YOU ALWAYS!
HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY!
MARILOU & CYNTHIA

Mommy,
I LOVE YOU!
Hazel

To our babies,
Rambo & Robee
Happy Valentine's Day! We Love You!
You bring us so much joy!
From Mama Babes, Auntie Besie & Ana

Waking up each day beside you makes me realize that no one can be as lucky as I am.
HAPPY VALENTINES RON!
With love, Mare'

Amparo Lim Cruz
HAPPY VALENTINE!!!
from: Renard Herol Cruz

Baby Lyn, Happy Valentines! Thank you for making my life complete. I Love you - Mark

---

BUBUT, AyabU! - BUBU

CHIKAY-/Me shout: I LOVE YOU so much Bossing!u Don

Cie,
SURPRISE MAHAL!!! dnt know what 2 give you this Valentine's eh. I want the world 2 know dat I love u so much - ELMO

Dearest AMOR,
I love you always!
ANTHONY

Dearest Honeybunny,
Your love is the strenght that keeps me going day in, and day out.
Thank you for your love and support all these years.
With all my love.
-CHIC

Dearest Jen,
Happy Valentine's Day to a loving wife & most wonderful Mother... WE LOVE YOU!
Vio,Lanz & Janine

✦ E.D.S.H. JANET ✦
THRU 12YRS TRIALS N THOU HURT 100X IN LOVE 4EVER UNITED WE STAND TODUP HAPPY VALENTINES EDSH J
✦ E.L.D. BOBBY ✦

Happy Heart's Day DONNA!!!
My one & only love,
you're God's greatest blessing to me-Rogelio S.R.

HAPPY HEART'S DAY JIM!
I LOVE YOU SWEETIE!
MWAH MWAH -BIANCA

HAPPY HEART'S DAY! TO our Most Loving Lola Dear LOLA PIA PAGDANGANAN!! Kisses from ur Super Kulits na Apo.

Happy Heart's Day Betay
You're a blessing to my life.
I Wab U Anil - Jason

Happy Valentine's Roycel I am always here to LOVE and to care for YOU - Jenny

---

HAPPY VALENTINES DAY DAD ART ♥ ISSABBEYROM

HI ELL! Happy Valentines! Love You -JANE

HVD Hunny! Love Valorie

HAPPY VALENTINES SHERYLL! O ha! Your hon, M.

Lenie,
HAPPY VALENTINES DAY!
HAPPY 1st MONTH ANNIVERSARY!
Love Daddy Jhun

EMMYLU,
HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY!
GILBERT

DIGNA,
HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY!
GILBERT

Hi HONEY PIE!
We've made it. Thank you for JULIEN. Happy Anniversary and Happy Valentines.
I LOVE YOU! - RHYANN

I LOVE YOU J.R.
Loving you is the best thing I've ever done in my life
Happy Valentine. ARLENE

I LOVE YOU VANESSA!
You will always have a special place in my heart...
Mwaaah! Luv MARK

I'LL ALWAYS TAKE GOOD CARE OF YOU, DOO. TRACEY

ISAH,
Forever....Always!
ROB

LINE,
Distance won't diminish what I feel...I LOVE YOU!
OBET

Love You Jhunski! Thank you for coming into my life, you're GOD's wonderful Gift to me.Happy Heart's Day!-MARS

Ma. Carmen and Ma. Angela
HAPPY HEART'S DAY!
Pay for this ha!
TATAY LEO

MAHAL!u I LOVE YOU SO MUCH MIRELLE! - EJO

MARLON,
Babes Happy Valentine! You are the man I want to spent my whole life thru thick&thin. I'm always by your side.
I LOVE YOU!
MICHELLE

MAY,
For the one who brightens my day with her smile;
Who takes care of the children with her loving arms.'
Who tames me with her expressive eyes;
Whose heart is pure and full of charm.
Happy Valentine's day my dear!!!
Now it's your turn to treat me this year!!!
Love,
BONG
(xixi & grei)

MOMMY TET Ganda Sexy!!!
WE LOVE YOU VERY MUCH!!
Papa HERMIE & NINOY

MY AJ,
I want the whole world to know how much I love you and how proud I am to be your GIRLFRIEND. HAPPY VALENTINES BABY! -- DA

MY BABY (MITZI),
You're the best thing that ever happened to me...
Happy Heart's Day-BABESY

YOU'RE THE WORLD'S GREATEST PARENTS MOMMY NILDA & DADDY BERT - LOVE AZARCON BROTHERS

To my wife EDITH, my kids KEVIN, VINCE & KLARENCE
HAPPY VALENTINE!
ARNEL

To Daddy, Mama, Ina & Ama,
HAPPY VALENTINES DAY!
We LOVE YOU VERY MUCH!
Love, Isaac, Marissa & Pauline

REMBRANDT,
Honey, nobody will ever understand but I LOVE YOU! Always, always & always.
Liezel

Reolyn S. Cruz,
HAPPY VALENTINE!!!
from Herold & Daddy

RICHARD,
You give meaning, balance and harmony in my life...
I LOVE YOU FOREVER MY BABY.
JULIA

Rosita R. Nicdao,
HAPPY VALENTINE!
You are the greatest MAMA
lovelots: Bonsai & Ardie

TO ERICA & KYRA, •HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY!!• To our LOVELY & SWEET KIDS!! Always Take Care of each other. Love, MOMMY & PAPA

To MARVIN MANANSALA of Guagua, Pampanga: HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY! I LOVE YOU! - FRANCES

To my dearest Ed Valentine Arcilla, Happy Birthday Luv Ya! -Mama, Richard, Kaka, Francine, Edrea

---

To my LABS, My life is much happier shared with you! Thank you for all the love and support! Love you much! Forevermore, Your YNA

TO MY LOVING JANE
I LOVE YOU MOMMY!!
LOVE, JHUN

TO our LOVELIEST and GREATEST AUNT ADELE FLORES! HAPPY HEART'S DAY!! TNX 4 Bearing w/ US. • GONZALES FAMILY

TO TJ, NICO & CARL, A Warm Hugs & Kisses 4 our Loving Kids!! From •Daddy Henry & Mommy Au•

TRACY ANN, I just wanna tell the world how much I love my HunnyBunny! Happy Valentines Day! Luv U! LY22

WE LOVE YOU MOMMY JOAN--DADDY ALLAN & BABY JOSH.

YANG,
HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY! I WILL NEVER BE COMPLETE WITHOUT YOU. I LOVE YOU!
-JEM

You know what hon?
God gave me the best gift ever:YOU. Mahal na mahal kita Lol! -Vince

---

To the Salazar Family (Melchor, Vilma, Jonas, Nicole & Audrey)
HAPPY VALENTINE'S!
From Babes and Bessie

To the family of BONG GOOD (Jessica, Kim, Michelle, Kiki!)
ENJOY THE DAY OF THE HEARTS! HAPPY VALENTINE'S!
From Babes and Bessie

HAPPY VALENTINE'S!
LOIDA and BENG
From Ate Babes & Ate Bess

My dearest MIL,
...I Love You not because you love me but because you made me Love You...
...I Love You not because you care but because you made me Care for You...
...I Love You not because I'm your wife but because you're my husband...
HAPPY VALENTINE, DADDY!
Love,
DENG

Mommy Jay & Daddy Addie,
You are our sunny sky, our favorite high, our sweetest gift, our emotional lift, our shining light, our day and night, our life made whole, our heart and soul.
Happy Valentine's Day!
Love,
Tin, Kato & Intoy, Carlo and Baby Karl

Bendinne,

I thank GOD for giving me a loving and caring Wife like you.
I LOVE YOU VERY MUCH, MAMA!
Happy Valentine!
Ed

ANN,
I just want the whole nation to know how sincere I am and how much I care for you.
HAPPY HEARTS DAY!
Always,
BON

Gilda,

Sweetheart, we were given a second chance to continue the love that we once had. Now, that we have each other again, I would like to tell you that loving you is one of the best things I've ever done in my life.

Take care and
I Love You Very Much.

Happy Valentine's Day!

Michael

Republic of Affection
Eternal Love District
Court of Hugs & Kisses
Branch 14344

I serve notice to the whole world that MY SWEET JOEY is the sole possessor of my heart EN CONCEPTO DE DUEÑO.

While there may be trespasser who would want to disturb her peaceful possession thereof, this would be of no moment.

Being IN SOLIDUM, our indivisible love subject to no suspensive or resolutory condition whatsoever shall quash any forcible entry thereto.

WHEREFORE, premises considered, I am hereby sentenced to enjoy RECLUSION PERPETUA in her arms with all the accessory rewards of warm thoughts, passionate kisses and undying love.

SO ORDERED.

HONEY YEL

Dearest RRT,
I chose you as one person with whom I want to spend the rest of my life. I thank God for bringing you to me and I thank you for giving meaning to my life... happiness, laughter, friendship and a reason to look at tomorrow. You have become a part of me I could never live without. I want you not because of what you have or what you could give, but as long as you're there, caring for me, I'll be here for you. I will do anything for you. It's all because I LOVE YOU. Happy Hearts Day Swthrt!!!
Love always,
Pita (MAS)

BOGCHI,
...thank you for touching my life in ways you may never know...
...I may not always be with you, but if you need me, you only have to look inside your heart—I CAN NEVER BE TOO FAR.
...you see, there's this place in me where your fingerprints still rest, your kisses still linger, and your whispers softly echo...it's the place where a part of you will forever be a part of me.
Happy Valentine, babes!
ANGEL

GAPA,
EVERYDAY WITH YOU IS A VALENTINE'S DAY!
LUV U, LUV U!!
GING²

Jay, Rina & Tery,
We'll always be together forever.
Lab U So Much!
HAPPY VALENTINE'S!
MOMMY

Iris,
Having you is the greatest thing that ever happened to me.
HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY!
Raffy

Dear Lolo Antong,
HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY!
We LOVE You!
JED & ENA

Joen,
HAPPY HEARTS DAY SWEETIE!
Astig Ba!!!
Tisoy

Dearest DARIO,
Whatever obstacles cross our path, we'll stick together thru thick and thin.
I LOVE YOU!
LALENG

HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY to my dear Son JM and Daughter Hammah!
Love,
MAMA

Dearest Lyn & Lanz,
I'm thankful that God has given me, You and Lanz as "The Most Wonderful Gift!"
Love Daddy

---

mam—,
missing ü!
bab—

Dearest PAOLO,
Dati si Mama lang, ngayon dalawa na kami.
WE LOVE YOU!
Mom & Dad

TIN,
Tin..... la lang, cge na nga...
HAPPY VALENTINE'S!
MON

Dear Anne & Kids,
HAPPY VALENTINE'S!
Love & Kisses,
Papa Emil

Dearest Anthony,
My love for you will remain forever.
HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY! Take good care of yourself for me.
Love always,
Lyndsey

Dearest Nanay,
HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY!
We Love You,
Karen, Ranie, Marie, Meo

Mahal,
Your love is God's blessing to me, I am glad we've found each other.
Gigi

Gina,
HAPPY VALENTINES!
I LOVE YOU!
Mike Agoncillo

TERESA,
One look, one chance, a moment too quick for it is but a glance. My heart skipped a beat, and my world started moving, all because of you...THE LOVE I HAVE FOUND.
ANTHONY

BABE,
Thank you so much for the love you've given Me and Paolo.
I LOVE YOU!
BEI
"She"

To Albert, Maritess & Merlyn,
HAPPY VALENTINE'S TO ALL OF YOU!
Love and kisses,
MAMA

Jeff & Jerissa,
May this day remind you of my unending love and concern. Happy Valentine's Day and may the guidance of the Lord be with you always. Take Care!
Love & Prayers,
Mama

To my wife Ellen,
Please stay as sweet as you are.
HAPPY VALENTINE!
I LOVE YOU VERY MUCH!
Your Hubby,
Gerry

Dear Lola Ida & Lolo Pacoy Abad,
HAPPY VALENTINE!
Lola Ida, We're always praying for your complete healing. Be strong!
WE LOVE YOU!
JED & ENA

Dearest Papa,
HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY!
We Love You,
Jeric, Jerome, Jem-Jem & Jerald

February 14, 2002
Dearest Nathan,
You're God's Greatest gift to us.
We are very proud of you!
We love you with all our hearts
HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY!
Love:
Papa Jojo & Mama Cynthia

Dearest Nanay Rosy,
HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY!
We Love You,
Nicole, Mico, Christian, RR, Andrew, JR & Roma

Dear CEL,
HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY!
I Love U!
TOTOT

Dear Yohan Montesines,
Having you as a Gift from God is the greatest treasure we can have especially this VALENTINE'S DAY!
We Love You,
Dad & Mom

Ria,
HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY!
Elmer

To my Baby RYAN,
You're everything to me...HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY TO MY ONLY TABURNOK...
I promise to LOVE YOU—FOREVER!
I Love You,
TINTIN

MAMA,
HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY!
(Wag ka na magalit...)
PEPOT

To OLY & GALE,
HAPPY HEARTS DAY!
This is just one of those 365 days that I want to express how I really CARE!!!
Love,
ERIC

Beth,
I AM ALWAYS HERE to understand you, to laugh with you, to cry with you, to talk to you, to think with you, to plan with you. Eventhough we are not always be together, please know that I AM ALWAYS HERE to love you. Sorry if my love hurts you. You are the greatest thing that ever happened to my life!
I Love You!
Always & forever,
8 12 5

Dear Daddy Nonoy & Mommy Dhez,
LAV and KISSES on VALENTINE'S DAY!
LUIS ANTONIO

Anthony my LABZ,
Tnx 4 everything! Ders 1thing I wud promise.
"Kaw lng ang mmahaln sa Dulo ng Walang hanggan Pangako syo!!!
Game k n b?!!
(juk lng)...
LAV BU!!!
U'r LABZ
IRIS

I Love You
Nory My Babes,
You, Andrei and Ian are the best things that ever happened in my life.
HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY!
Ely Chito

Everdearest Lola Cely,
Just to let you know that you are most remembered on this special day.
HAPPY VALENTINES!
We truly care even if you give us daily "sermons".
Love,
Marco & Gale Salazar

Dearest Tatay Michael,
You're my life!
THANK YOU FOR BEING WITH ME!
Rache

DANNIE,
Having you in my life is the wonderful thing that happened to me.
HAPPY WEDDING ANNIVERSARY & HAPPY VALENTINE!
Love you,
EBE

My dearest Marivic,
You have always been mine, in another place and time, my partner-in-rhyme.
Happy Valentine!
Always,
Mel Gibson

Hi Love,
Always be the LOVE OF MY LIFE!
HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY!
Jimmy :-)

Lynette,
HAPPY VALENTINES!
I LOVE YOU!
Dick Gutierrez

Mims,
Thanks for everything!
I LOVE YOU!
Lala :-)

Dear NO',
HAPPY HAPPY VALENTINE'S
Love,
NE'

Shawie Hon,
There's one thing in my life I'm sure not to regret, it is the chance given to me by God to know and to LOVE YOU.
HAPPY VALENTINE'S HON!
Love and Prayers,
Joel :-)

Dearest Nanay LALA & BIN,
You are the LOVE of My LIFE!
HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY!
Love Ya!
Tatay RANDY

Dear Baby,
HAPPY VALENTINE'S
I LOVE YOU!
Agoy

Sweet Nothings...

Daddy Mahr & Mommy Fely,

You are the greatest God's Miracle in our life. Hope you will be in the best of health throughout the years

We Love You and Happy Heart's Day

Mahar, Mara & Kano

Dear Dad & Mom,

Thank you for all the beautiful things you gave to me.

I Love You

R 'Roxrio' R

Dear Bambi,

Although we have not seen each other yet, I would like to thank you for trust and the friendship!

A Happy Day of the Hearts to you!

You've Got Mail

Gel,

Thanks for being such a great girlfriend!
Happy 30th Monthsary and
Happy Valentine's
I Love you so much!

Your Brother Dad Honey

Mama Ruby,

There is a love that only you could give, a smile that only your face can show, a twinkle that can be seen only in your eyes and a life of ours that only you can fulfill. We LOVE YOU!

Always, Michelle, Mary Joy & Hesed

Oliver,

Ay lab yu (be)bes! Ay will olwys be der 4 yu!

Happy Valentines

Adelle

Plalav Eshe,

This very special day I would like to renew my promises to you. Just keep on hanging on Babe.

I Love you so much. Happy Valentine's Day!

Tbbsky, Germer

Daging,

Bisan ug sigi ka ug panuplok palangginguing gyod kaayo ka nako.
Happy Daging Day!

Manchot

Mom Emy,

A special Valentine greetings to a person who is a blessing in our life. We thank God for giving you to us... You're His Best Gift. We love you... Happy Valentine!!!

Joy, Ning, Tin²

My precious Joy, Tin and Ning

The beautiful friendship i found in You will always remain in my heart. Happy Valentine's Day

Emy

Production Staff,

Thank you and Happy Valentine's Day

Makati Branch

Nanay Naty,

Happy Valentine's Day and We love you...

Sons & Daughters
Montesines

My Darling babies, (Sheen and Sam)

My love for you is endless... Ur mommy and daddy will always be here for you. Happy Valentine's Day. We love u so much.

Daddy Lito and Mommy Emy

My Dearest Tatay and Nanay

The best thing that happen to my life is having You *as my parents.* Thank u very much for all the love & care. Happy Valentine's Day
I Love you,

Emy

To Mom & Dad,

Happy Valentines Day to both of you. I Love You very much.

Love,
Rissa Pauline L. Perez

To Mom & Dad,

I thank God for giving me a parents like you. Happy Valentines Day and I love you both.

Love, Jan-Jan B. Perez

Ninang Ruth,

Happy Birthday to you and Happy Valentines Day too!

Love,
Lita

Daddy,

The love u shared with me... so with Sheen and Sam is more than enough a blessings Happy Valentine's Day I Love You

Mommy

Dickong,

Peace within your heart this Valentine's Day.

Dadi

Agnes, Claire, Myk & Joe,

Although we don't see each other always, Lab ko pa rin kayo. Happy Valentine guys!

Len

Cugman, Zone 1,

I miss you all and Happy Valentine's Day

Totic

Wolverine,

I've said this before, I'm saying it again... No matter what happens, I will be here for you. We'll weather out any storm... Together ! I Love you... Happy Valentine!!!

Rogue

Mommy & Daddy,

Thank you for the patience, understanding and love you've showered us all these years. We love you very much!!! Happy Valentine.

Joy, Monet, Ruth, Jason

Gen. Adad & CRS Personnel,

Happy Valentine's Day and a fruitful heart for everybody

Totic

Rico,

Happy Valentine's Day! Lab U...

Lyn

Republic of the Philippines
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

TOLL REGULATORY BOARD

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NOTICE OF PRE-HEARING CONFERENCE

In connection with TOLL RATE ADJUSTMENTS recently promulgated by the Toll Regulatory Board (TRB) for the Metro Manila Skyway Project which was constructed by Citra Metro Manila Tollways Corporation (CMMTC) and which is being operated by the PNCC through the PNCC Skyway Corporation, its fully-owned subsidiary, NOTICE is hereby given that the TRB shall conduct a Pre-hearing Conference between the parties (Oppositors to the toll rate adjustments and CMMTC) together with their attorneys and the Hearing Officer on **February 19, 2002**, 2:00 p.m., at the Conference Room of the TRB, 2nd Floor, Integrated Bar of the Philippines (IBP) Building, Doña Julia Vargas Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City, for the purpose of seeking agreement on ways or means of expediting the proceedings of the Formal Hearings.

Any interested expressway user has the right to file a petition with the Toll Regulatory Board for a review of the provisional toll rates. The **February 19, 2002** Pre-Hearing Conference shall include all petitions for review submitted on or before **February 18, 2002.** All petitions for review of the provisional toll rates submitted between **February 18, 2002** and **March 17, 2002** (90th day from first publication of Notice of Toll Rate Adjustment) will be included in a subsequent Pre-Hearing Conference.

Copies of the Rules of Practice and Procedure Governing Hearing before the Toll Regulatory Board may be secured from the Office of the Executive Director in the same office address stated above.

(Sgd.) **JAIME S. DUMLAO, JR.**
Executive Director

(PDI – Feb. 14 & 18, 2002)

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Tel. No. 435-3366 or 920-5521 loc. 3600 / Fax No. 928-2303

INVITATION TO BID FOR DISPOSAL OF MATERIALS

Gentlemen:

Maynilad Water Services, Inc. (MWSI) is inviting all interested parties to participate in the ***bidding for the disposal of various excess (unused) fittings.***

Bid documents can be secured at the MWSI-Purchasing Department, MWSS Building, Basement, Katipunan Road, Balara, Quezon City.

Actual inspection of the items can be made from **February 13-22, 2002** in coordination with the MWSI Purchasing Department.

Bids shall be submitted in a sealed envelope to the Purchasing Department *on or before* ***February 27, 2002 (Monday); 5:00 p.m.*** Award will be based on the highest bid received.

MWSI reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reason/s, waive any and all informalities therein, and accept the bid it deems most advantageous to the MWSI.

Very truly yours,

(Sgd.) **IGNACIO B. GIMENEZ**
AVP, Corporate Logistics

(PDI - Feb 13 & 14, 2002)

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE
BUREAU OF INTERNAL REVENUE
Bids and Awards Committee for
Information Technology (BAC-IT) Resources

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The BIR invites interested parties to apply for eligibility and to bid for all or any of the following CY2002 Phase 2 pojects:

Lot 1	Procurement of BFA Weblogic Software
Lot 2	Lease of Microcomputers and Printers
Lot 3	Procurement of Six (6) Switches
Lot 4	Procurement of One (1) License Checkpoint Firewall
Lot 5	Procurement of Four (4) Routers
Lot 6	Facilities Management Services (Re-bid)

Interested bidders may obtain further information on the eligibility requirements and availability of bid documents from BAC-IT Secretariat at Room 306 Revenue Computer Center (RCC) Building, BIR Compound, BIR Road, Diliman, Quezon City or call telephone numbers **929-2315, 981-7088** and **926-8369** (fax).

The BIR BAC-IT assumes no obligation whatsoever to compensate or indemnify the bidders for any excuse or loss that they may incur in the preparation of their bid and reserves the right to reject any or all bids and accept the offer most advantageous to the government.

(Sgd.) **VICTOR G. BORROMEO**
Chairman
Bids & Awards Committee for
Information Technology (BAC-IT) Resources

(PDI - Feb 14, 2002)

Republic of the Philippines
ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION
San Miguel Avenue, Pasig City

IN THE MATTER OF THE
APPLICATION FOR APPROVAL
OF THE REVISED RATE
SCHEDULES IN COMPLIANCE
WITH SECTION 36 OF REPUBLIC
ACT NO. 9136 AND ERC ORDER
DATED OCTOBER 30, 2001, AND
FOR APPROVAL OF APPRAISAL
OF PROPERTIES, WITH PRAYER
FOR PROVISIONAL AUTHORITY

ERC CASE NO. 2001-900

MANILA ELECTRIC COMPANY,
(MERALCO),
Applicant.
x------------------------------------x

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

TO ALL INTERESTED PARTIES:

Notice is hereby given of the filing by applicant Manila Electric Company (MERALCO) on December 26, 2001 of an application for approval of its revised rate schedules in compliance with Section 36 of Republic Act No. 9136 and ERC Order dated October 30, 2001, and for approval of appraisal of its properties with prayer for provisional authority, docketed as ERC Case No. 2001-900. The Revised Rate Schedules will result in an increase in applicant's average overall tariff by P1.1228 or 19.6% of its November 2001 average of P5.7345/kWh.

The Commission has set the application for hearing on March 11 and 12, 2002 at ten o'clock (10:00 AM) in the morning at the ERC Hearing Room, 15th Floor, Pacific Center Building, San Miguel Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City.

All interested parties who may wish to comment on or oppose the said application should file their comments and/or oppositions on or before the date of hearing. Such parties who may wish to have the details of the application and who shall have manifested to the Commission their desire and intention to participate actively in the proceedings, may request that before the date of hearing, they be furnished with copies of the application by the applicant, which is hereby directed to furnish the parties making such request with copies of the application and its attachments. Likewise, any such interested party may examine the application and other pertinent records filed with the Commission during the usual office hours.

WITNESS, the Honorable **FE B. BARIN**, Chairman, and the Honorables **MARY ANNE B. COLAYCO, OLIVER B. BUTALID, CARLOS R. ALINDADA** and **LETICIA V. IBAY**, Commissioners, Energy Regulatory Commission, this 1st day of February, 2002 at Pasig City.

(Sgd.) **FRUCTUOSO C. LAGUNZAD**
Officer-in-Charge
Office of the Chief Executive Officer

(PDI – Feb. 14 & 21, 2002)

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Her remains lie in state at the Faith Chapel, Don Bosco Parish, Makati City.

Cremation services will be on February 15, 2002 at the Manila Memorial Park, Parañaque City after the 1:00 p.m. Mass.

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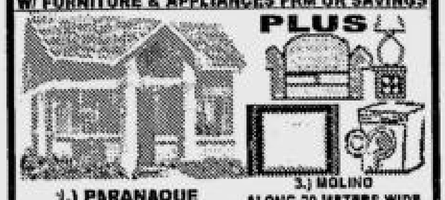

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LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late ARCONCIO TANYAG has been settled extrajudicially among his heirs as per Doc 37, Page 9, Book 1, Series of 2002 of the Notarial Register of Atty. Dolores M. Tatco. (PDI-1/31, 2/7 & 14 2002)

Notice is hereby given that all Global Bank Retiro Branch Accts.of ADELINA G.MAYUGA was extrajudicially settled among her heirs as per Doc# 188, Page# 38 Book# CXLI, Series of 2002 of Notary Public Atemio C. Villas of Bohol - PDI 2/14,19,26,2002

NOTICE OF LOSS

Stock Certificate of IMASEN PHILIPPINE MANUFACTURING CORPORATION under the name of NAOYUKI NOBE S.Cert.No.18 w/t Share Dated March 23, 2001.If no contest presented w/in 3 consecutive weeks of publication,new cert. will be issued.(PDI-Feb.14,21&28, 2002)

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INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY AND BID

The COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS invites prospective bidders to Prequalify and bid for the supply of **SECURITY AND JANITORIAL SERVICES.**

Bidders are required to submit the following documents/ requirements for prequalification on or before **February 22, 2002** at the General Services Division:

1. SEC/DTI Registration
2. Articles of Incorporation/Partnership
3. Latest Business License/Permit 2002
4. Audited Financial Statements (attach ITR) for the last 2 years
5. VAT Registration Certificate
6. List of Clients together with their addresses, telephone numbers and contact persons and number of persons deployed for each company
7. SOCIA-PNP Clearance for Security Service only

For inquiries, please contact or see:

MS. CONSOLACION L. LIMONGCO
Chief, General Services Division
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Chairman, Committee on Bids and Awards

(PDI -- Feb. 12, 13 & 14, 2002)

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Connecticut Superior Court J.D. of Fairfield at Bridgeport
Return Date: February 26, 2002
RE: Escarnita F. Palacios vs. Mariano I. Pangilinan

ORDER OF NOTICE

The Court has reviewed the Motion for Notice by Publication on Irretrievable Breakdown. The Court find that defendant's whereabouts are unknown and that all reasonable efforts to find Mariano I. Pangilinan have failed. The Court finds that the defendant's last known address was 252 Concepcion, San Pablo City, Manila, Philippines.

The Court Orders that notice be given to the defendant by placing a legal notice in The Daily Inquirer, a newspaper circulating in the City of San Pablo, Manila, Philippines.

Containing a true and attest copy of the Order of Notice, and a statement that Automatic Court Order have been issued in the case as required by Section 25-5 of Connecticut Practice Book and are of the complaint on file with the Court.

The notice should appear before **February 14, 2002** and proof of service shall be filled with the Court.

Superior Court Asst. Clerk Robert A. Wilock II

The within and forgoing is a true and attested copy of the original in my hands for publication.
Charles M. Valentino, Sr., State Marshal/Fairfield County

(PDI - Feb 14 & 21 2002)

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

A warrant of arrest for **MS. NORBELITA E. MESIANO** of 62 Gil Street, New Banicain, Olongapo City whose picture appears above, has been issued by Branch 72 of the Regional Trial Court of Olongapo City in Criminal Case No. 296-2001 for Estafa under Art. 315 (1) (b) of the Revised Penal Code.

Please direct any information leading to her arrest or whereabouts to any of our offices:

HIMLAYANG PILIPINO PLANS, INC.
Triumph Building, 1610 Quezon Avenue, Quezon City
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or to: 2nd Floor, Fabunan Building, 1040 Rizal Avenue,
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(PDI - Feb 14 2002)

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

A warrant of arrest for **MS. RAQUEL IMPERIAL MANLANGIT** of Bogtong, Legazpi City whose picture appears above, has been issued by Branch 3 of the Regional Trial Court of Legazpi City in Criminal Case No. 9226 for Estafa under Art. 315 (1) (b) of the Revised Penal Code.

Please direct any information leading to her arrest or whereabouts to any of our offices:

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(PDI - Feb 14 2002)

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'Daks': One size fits all

By Tessa R. Salazar

NOT too big, not too small, enough.

For a diminutive driver me, this could be my personal statement whenever I drive a Daks, as Dodge Dakota owners endearingly call the mid-size pickup.

Luxury pickup lover in the country need not settle for a full-size pickup or a too-small one if they find out they have another option: a medium-size pickup with a full-size capacity.

I got a chance to cruise a Daks briefly one foggy evening in Tagaytay Highlands, and the gas pedal (don't expect pedal adjusters, by the way) on any road incline felt like driving a light vehicle.

Its Philippine distributor--Norkis Automotive Corp.--believes it is the best in its class in the country. Its horsepower, torque, towing and payload show it.

I did some quick specs comparos on it versus some of the luxury pickups around: a full-sized F150 Supercrew and an Explorer Sportrac.

The Supercrew's overall length is 5,745 mm while that of the Explorer is 5,230 mm long. The Daks is 5,463.3 mm long.

The Supercrew's overall width is 2,029 mm while the Explorer has 1,735 mm. The Daks: 2,022.4 mm.

The Supercrew's wheel base is 3,526 mm and Explorer has 3,198 mm. Daks is at 3,330 mm.

The Supercrew weighs in at 3,068 kg, the Explorer at 2,673 kg and the Daks at 2,909.50 kg.

Dodge Dakota's engine specs, however, hint of more power. The Supercrew packs a 4.6L SOHC Triton V8, Daks reveals a 4.7L V8 OHV SMPI under its hood. The Explorer is quite tame with a 4.0 L SOHV SEFI V6.

Supercrew's got a maximum torque of 398nM (Newton Meter) /3,250 rpm and Explorer has 327nM/4,000 rpm while Daks has 295nM over 3,200 rpm.

The maximum output or horsepower indicates Supercrew has 220 hp/4,500 rpm while Daks has 230 kw/4,800 rpm and Explorer's got 205 hp over 5,000 rpm.

All claim to have 4x4 capabilities with Supercrew having a 4WD, 4-speed AT with overdrive and electronic shift on the fly 2H, 4H and 4L. Daks runs at four speeds on AT with electronic shift on the fly 2H, 4H and 4L too, while the Explorer is a 5-speed AT and overdrive.

Rough roads for Daks users also mean taking advantage of the cab's narrow 36-foot turning diameter. Its 4x4 maneuver has a turning diameter of 41.2 feet.

No need to go into a litany of details anymore. See for yourself. Suffice to say you won't curse small parking lots that much anymore even if you're driving a full-size capacity vehicle. Daks is the choice of a medium-size pickup with full-size power.

And with the doors able to open a full 90 degrees, you don't have to squeeze yourself in even if you yourself have gargantuan proportions but just won't admit it.

The "stow and go" rear seats, by the way, create almost 30 cubic feet of space.

Daks comes in standard ABS. The fuel tank capacity is 91.2 liters.

A MEDIUM-SIZE pickup with a full size capacity

ERIK ARAZAS

The case for random drug testing

ON THE ROAD

Aida Sevilla-Mendoza

EVER since the Land Transportation Office (LTO) required all driver's license applicants to undergo a test for illegal drug usage; the number of applications has fallen.

Here's why. The drug test adds P300 to the P180 cost of renewing one's license. And if you flunk the test, you'll have to wait six months before you can take it again. Meanwhile, the validity of your license will have expired.

You'll be driving with an expired driver's license and make easy prey for mulcting cops. This is especially true for tricycle drivers who would rather pay grease money (P20 is reportedly the going rate, since tricycle drivers don't earn that much) to a cop than fork over a total of P480 to the LTO.

Not that it's hard to pass the drug test. In some instances, after money changes hands under the table, the certificate clearing the applicant of drug use is ready even before the test results are out.

Critics of the drug test also point out that drug users determined to pass the test can abstain from drugs for a month or weeks before going to the LTO. Although doing so would be a living hell for real drug addicts and traces of the drugs may still be found in them, they know that if they pass the test, they won't have to take it for the next three years—the period of validity of the driver's license.

Because so many drivers are no longer renewing their licenses due to the drug test prerequisite, the production and sale of fake licenses—called "*talahib na licencia*" in street lingo—has become a growth industry. The rapid advance of computer technology and the proliferation of young, hungry hackers in this country make the manufacture of fake driver's licenses so easy.

All the above are reasons the Automobile Association Philippines (AAP), formerly known as the Philippine Motor Association, favors random drug testing aimed at long-distance drivers and motorists involved in road accidents.

AAP executive director Johnny Angeles suggests that when drivers who were injured in a road mishap are brought to a hospital, they undergo testing for drug and alcohol abuse at the hospital. If they do not require medical treatment at a hospital, they should be subjected to drug testing on the spot.

Long-distance drivers such as cargo truck drivers coming from distant provinces can be flagged down at random and then subjected to a drug test, Mr. Angeles says, as long-distance drivers are notorious for taking drugs so as to stay awake at the wheel on long hauls. Mr. Angeles doesn't think that random testing of drivers on the road would violate their constitutional or human rights. "In this country, even a fake cop in a borrowed uniform can flag down a truck in the middle of the night," he notes. "The truck driver will stop, only to be mulcted for some imagined or petty traffic violation, such as wearing slippers while driving."

Drug testing for drivers and the seat belt law are only two of the things that the AAP plans to incorporate in a bill amending the Land Transportation and Traffic Code (Republic Act 4136), which was approved in June 1964. Although RA 4136 has been amended several times, changes in traffic volume, road conditions and the increasing number of motor vehicles demand even more updating. Moreover, some provisions from RA 7924 creating the Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA) clash with those of RA 4136.

The AAP has been pushing unsuccessfully for the revision of the Land Transport Code during the past three (9th, 10th and 11th) Congresses by submitting its proposed amendments. During the 11th Congress, the AAP supported HB 1453, the National Land Transportation Authority Act, but the bill got nowhere and soon landed in archives.

Now, upon the advice of Parañaque City Rep. Eduardo Zialcita, the AAP is collating its draft provisions and all land transport-related bills into a consolidated bill. This will include Sen. Robert Jaworski's Senate Bill 893 to institute reforms in the management of transportation and traffic within Metro Manila by amending RA 7924 creating the MMDA; Sen. Vicente Sotto III's SB 1615 to institute the National Traffic Engineering Center and Sen. Gregorio Honasan's SB 1680 to open subdivision roads to vehicular traffic.

Mr. Angeles says the AAP will welcome suggestions and inputs for the consolidated bill from its members and other concerned motorist groups. The AAP has set March 30, 2002 as the deadline for completing the bill.

* * *

TODAY'S BUMPER STICKER: It's never too late to have a happy childhood.

* * *

E-mail comments to asevilla@inquirer.com.ph.

LTO world's slowest gov't agency

FULL TANK

Al Mendoza

THE PERCEIVED corruption at the Land Transportation Office is not the lone dent on the LTO's image. The bigger dent is the snail-like pace with which the government agency seems to treat the area of registering newly bought vehicles.

Listen, can you believe that 9 out of 10 buyers of vehicles last Christmas have yet to receive their certificates of registration, plate numbers and windshield stickers?

What's causing the delay there?

As I said here last week, even vehicle dealerships are getting the flak from buyers.

* * *

Logic tells us the LTO has no reason not to speed up the release of our vehicle papers. The minute a sale is consummated, dealers immediately forward the papers for processing of the certificate of registration at the LTO. Dealers have no business keeping the papers in their drawers or they will incur the ire of customers. That's common sense.

Why it takes almost forever for the LTO to come up with results boggles the mind.

Red tape, maybe?

It's more like it. For, what could be the reason for the delay?

* * *

What makes it doubly annoying is, when police apprehend you for not having plates in your vehicles!

My, my. You get punished for a crime you haven't done.

If Bobby Lastimoso, the new LTO chief, is really a good leader as many love to say, he should prove that now.

Look what happened to General Abenina. He was doing well, I believe, but he was still sacked. Sample: Didn't Ate Glo praise Abenina to high heavens for his one-day job of processing driver's licenses during the President's State of the Nation Address last year?

Now, if Lastimoso can't fix so simple a problem like the speedy release of certificates of registration, he should not last another day in office. There are more difficult problems to repair at the LTO than just the processing of vehicle registration papers.

That's simply the job of a clerk. Never a general's job.

* * *

Traffic management is more of anticipation than action. I don't know why choke points have not been properly manned up to this day. The metropolis is so filled with traffic-snarling intersections and yet, our traffic leaders have not done anything to arrest the problem.

It is also frustrating to see loading/unloading zones right at the corners of major roads. They are major causes of traffic jams and yet, nothing's been done to correct this flaw.

Same with "prohibition signs." Nobody obeys them—not even traffic enforcers who see erring drivers "ignore" the signs with impunity. And do nothing about it.

Corruption it is called.

Automation pushed to curb 'hot' cars

By Charles E. Buban

TO CONTROL the number of "hot" vehicles plying our streets, the Land Transportation Office registration division announces its plan to implement a nationwide computerized reading system of stock and sales reports of motor vehicle manufacturers, assemblers, importers and dealers, otherwise known as MAID.

The envisioned MAID reporting system will keep track of all motor vehicles that run on any road in the entire country as well as check whether the said vehicle has paid all pertinent customs duties and taxes, and if it's properly registered with the LTO.

With the new system, the LTO can also have faster access to reports and data while reducing the accumulation of paper files.

"We have been looking for ways to further improve the efficiency of this office and the MAID reporting system might be the answer in achieving this objective," says LTO chief Roberto Lastimoso who endorses the system's immediate and full implementation.

Complete database

The MAID reporting system will provide a complete database of all stocks and sales of all motor vehicle manufacturers, assemblers, importers and dealers and record the issuance of the corresponding certificates of confirmation, otherwise known as the motor vehicle's birth certificate.

At the moment, only the National Capital Region has the reporting system with Regions 3 and 4 as the next target. "It will take some time, but the interconnection between the LTO central office and all its registration offices in the country is on schedule," assures Lilia Diego of the LTO's registration section.

As soon as the MAID reporting system becomes operational nationwide, online data of all stocks, sales reports can be accessed by all LTO district offices to speed up the verification process.

Automated verification

The MAID reporting system, will ensure that all motor vehicles that will be registered in any LTO district office in the country have been reported to the registration section of all LTO regional offices, thus allow a customer to conveniently register his motor vehicle in any LTO district office.

"A certificate of confirmation will be issued electronically after showing proof of custom's payment for imported vehicles, or sales tax payment for locally assembled vehicles. Supporting documents and additional information on motor vehicles will be scanned and encoded while images will be archived. The same goes with other data which will be indexed for optical storage," explains Diego.

Also with the new system, the LTO can readily coordinate with other government agencies like the Department of Public Works and Highways for the road user's tax, Bureau of Internal Revenue for the sales tax, and Bureau of Customs for import tax and duties.

Prior to this reporting system, the MAIDs of motor vehicles, their stock and sales reports are initially submitted to the registration offices around the country in diskette form which is then delivered to central office in Quezon City for final encoding.

All lights are green at LTO

By Vicente B. Foz
Contributor

THERE'S no stopping the Land Transportation Office, despite the numerous attempts to put on the brakes.

After over three years of strapping down an ambitious project—the computerization and interconnectivity of the LTO—naysayers were left at the starting line in a cloud of dust because now all the LTO district and licensing offices are fully automated in the Metro Manila area. Very soon, its massive network will be in place nationwide.

In the past, processing of one's driver's license and getting his license card in less than an hour would've been part of a big bad joke. Juan dela Cruz had been accustomed to waiting almost half a day for his application for a new license or simple renewal to be processed and had to go back to the LTO office at least 3 times within a 6-month period to finally get his license card. But now, the laughter is one of exuberance and gratitude on the part of the LTO and the millions of driver's license holders and motor vehicle owners.

Thanks to computerization, fast and efficient transactions are now a reality, not just in the registration of motor vehicles and renewal of driver's licenses, but also in the other transactions administered by the LTO.

Information network

At the heart of the LTO Information Technology (LTO-IT) project is the Systems Management Center (SMC) of Stradcom Corp. Here, thousands of transactions are processed in its central database. The database is linked to the upgraded facilities of 250 district offices in Metro Manila and in the provinces. All transactions are neatly filed and stacked in digital formats, enabling easy retrieval from any online district office.

Because information is shared, incoming transactions can be checked and cross-checked almost instantly, making the LTO least-prone to incidences of fraud and misrepresentation. Provincial registrants won't be able to resort to the excuse of not being able to go to the LTO head office to renew their licenses. The provincial district office will be well-equipped to handle any LTO transaction.

Apart from the Driver's Licensing and Motor Vehicle Registrations Systems, the LTO-IT also involves the Law Enforcement and Traffic Adjudication System, wherein motorists' records are checked for any outstanding violations that have yet to be addressed. Again, digitized motorist records allow the LTO to hasten the verification process.

Accurate monitoring

Recently, the LTO-IT has enabled the accurate monitoring of all motor vehicles being manufactured, assembled, imported and sold (MAID) in the country with its upgraded MAID reporting system. The success of the operational testing of the MAID reporting system in Metro Manila would allow linking this system into the systems of the LTO offices in regions where these have been rolled out. Through the MAID Reporting System, the days of "hot" or stolen cars will soon be over.

Critics have attacked the increase in service fees due to the computerization but fail to consider the long-term benefits of the project. Ultimately, graft and corruption will significantly be reduced in the LTO enabling it to contribute increased revenues for the government's programs for the poor. Considering that the government didn't spend a single cent for its computerization project, the bold and significant improvements in the LTO services easily overshadow the few pesos that a driver or a car owner would have to shell out every time he gets or renews his driver's license or registers his car.

Government green light

The LTO has set the example of fully integrating information technology in government services, and was even recognized by President Macapagal-Arroyo in her State of the Nation Address last July 23, 2001. The beauty of the LTO-IT project rests in its virtually paperless system. Noticeably, the upgraded district offices have less paper files cluttering the office. All documents (photographs, forms, signatures, etc.) would have been transformed into digital information stored in the central database of the SMC.

In the future, this digital library can also be shared with other government agencies and private companies. This way, the public will be able to enjoy a higher level of convenience because cross-checking their information with other government agencies can be done in a snap.

Stradcom and its suppliers have been working nonstop since May 1998 to ensure that they are on schedule in fully computerizing the LTO, as opposed to comments that the project had been in the backwater far too long. By the third quarter of this year, the nationwide LTO network will be fully online in line with the government's initiative of delivering hassle-free services to the public. Yes, there may have been a few stop lights and warning signs along the way, but the rewards of the relentless efforts of Stradcom and the LTO are already being felt by hundreds of thousand of motorists.

Down the line, the benefits of riding the information superhighway will be another part of our way of life, and the green light won't just be one for the LTO. It'll be for every monumental effort to improve the performance of our growing nation.

POWERFUL AND ELEGANT

The Spike 125, a powerful dual purpose moped ideal for city and off-road riding, has recently hit the market. The newest offering of S.C. Kymco Pilipinas Inc. features a high-kicking 125-cc, 4-stroke engine, a durable mono shock rear suspension, modern CDI ignition and reliable disk brake. Former motocross expert-class rider Ogie Alcantara test-drives the sporty Spike 125 in rugged terrain.

Tire blows out

From page B12

and lives and limbs are lost. Remember that fuel tanker that lost control along the Coastal Road in Parañaque? Its tire blew up before plowing into pedestrians and exploding, taking 14 innocent lives with it.

Scrap the recap

Jacobo encourages motorists to buy brand-new tires instead of recapping old ones. She said, however, that people have been complaining that they couldn't afford new ones. Her reply: which is cheaper, brand-new tires or a memorial service?

Recapped tires and vulcanizing shops are enjoying brisk business, she said, because of the dictates of the economy and the Filipinos' nature of being risk-takers and fatalists. How many times have we said to ourselves "*pwede pa yan*" on a worn-out tire?

Come to think of it, are brand-new tires safe, anyway? Is the Department of Trade and Industry's consumer protection department doing its job so no dud rubber is burning on our asphalts?

That would be another story.

MOTORING

Cesar D. Mangawang, Editor

FREAK ACCIDENT

Tire blows out

By Tessa R. Salazar

KABLAM!

Twelve high noon one day in January, somewhere on a remote highway in Benguet, the left rear tire of a 10-wheeler truck suffers a blowout.

Sounds like an ordinary occurrence, until you place yourself a few inches from where the blowout takes place. And, unfortunately, I was at that place at that time.

Explosion, realization

My vehicle—an AUV—was at the opposite side of the truck. When the truck's three-foot high tire burst, me and my passengers thought a grenade had exploded.

In that split second between the explosion and realization, as our ears rung like tuning forks, we thought we had bitten dust. Well, this was it, I thought to myself. Only to find out later I was still in one piece, along with my five passengers who were safe but visibly shaken.

My vehicle, however, took the full force of the blast.

We found out later that the truck weighed 3.5 tons and its tires were inflated to 144 psi (pounds per square inch). It was carrying a full load of chicken manure.

The force of the blast deformed our vehicle's left fender, bent the hood upward, and gouged out the left signal light. All this damage, and yet there never was any physical contact between the vehicles. There was only air—rushing toward us at speed faster than sound.

Later still, we wondered how many incidents such as this had happened to other motorists.

No data yet

Official figures are not available; there is no data on accidents related to tire blowouts. Land Transportation Office traffic safety education chief Daisy Jacobo, however, said that law enforcers are expecting more of these incidents as harvest season in the countryside will cause more cargo vehicles to be overloaded, and their tires improperly inflated.

Jacobo told the INQUIRER that people tend to ignore the provision on overloading, dismissing it as anti-poor—until accidents happen

NOT /B11

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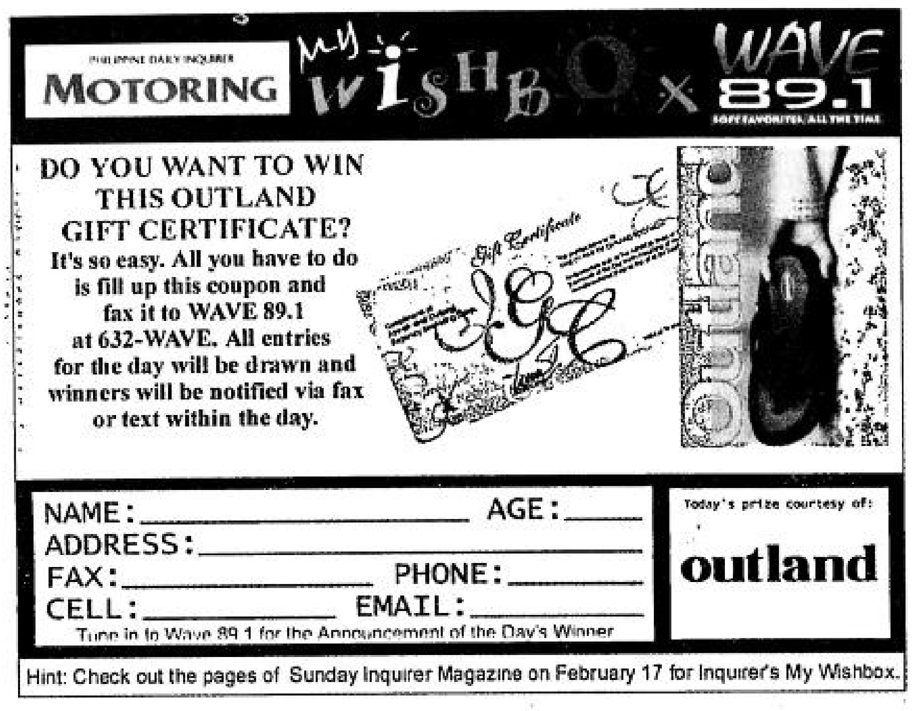
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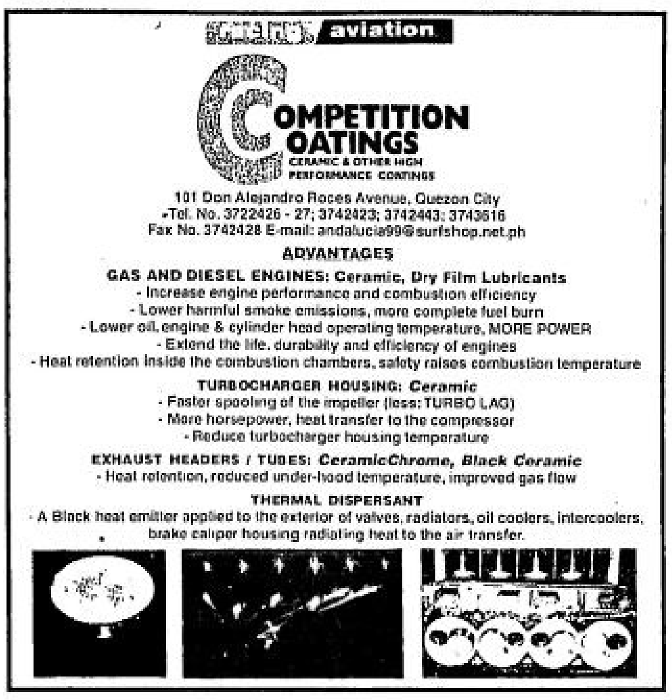
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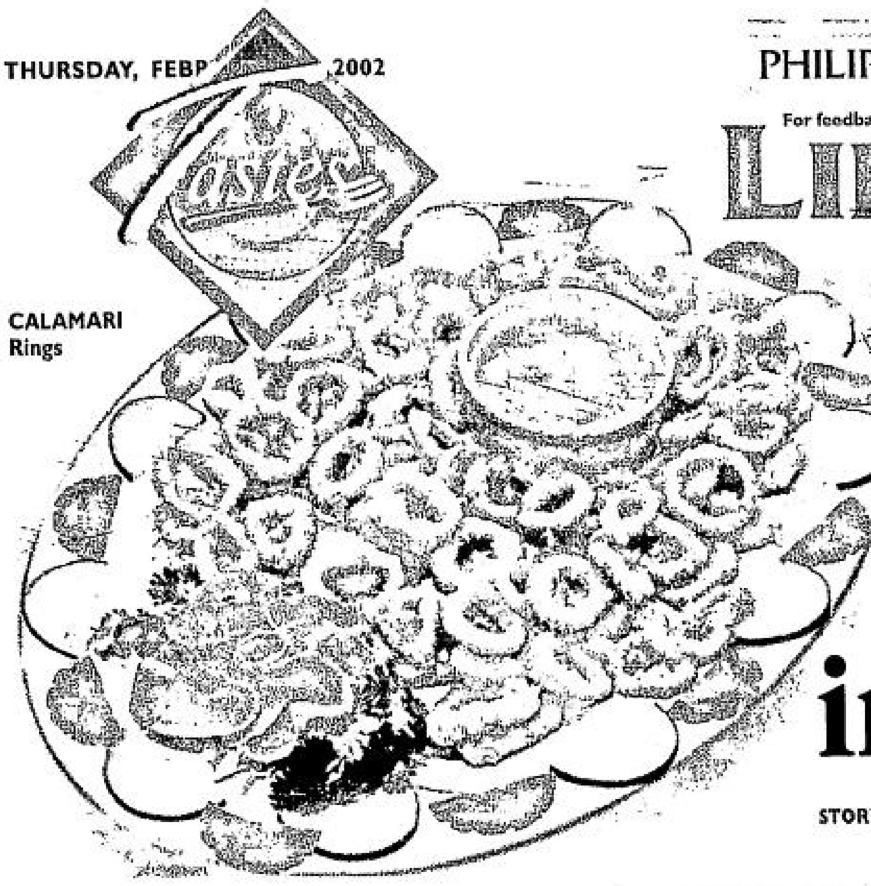
LIFESTYLE

Editor Chelo Banal-Formoso



CALAMARI
Rings

Seafood dishes in a flash

STORY ON PAGE C2

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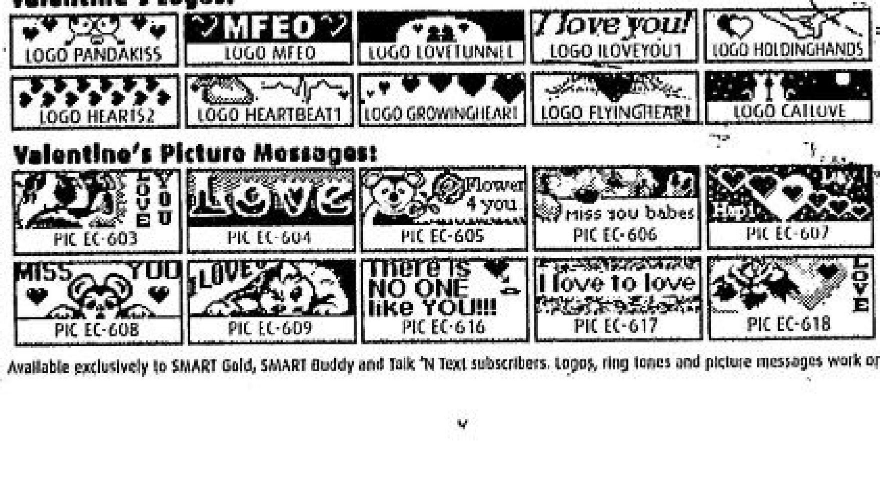
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PIC EC-617
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PIC EC-618

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LOVE HOROSCOPE	LH <zodiac sign>	LH ARIES
FORTUNE RELATIONSHIP	FORTUNE REL <out come of 6 coin tosses> H=Heads, T=Tails	FORTUNE REL HTHTHT
CHINESE HOROSCOPE FOR LOVE	<zodiac animal> L	HORSE L

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Crush ng Bayan	Chris Villonco	TONE CRUSHNG
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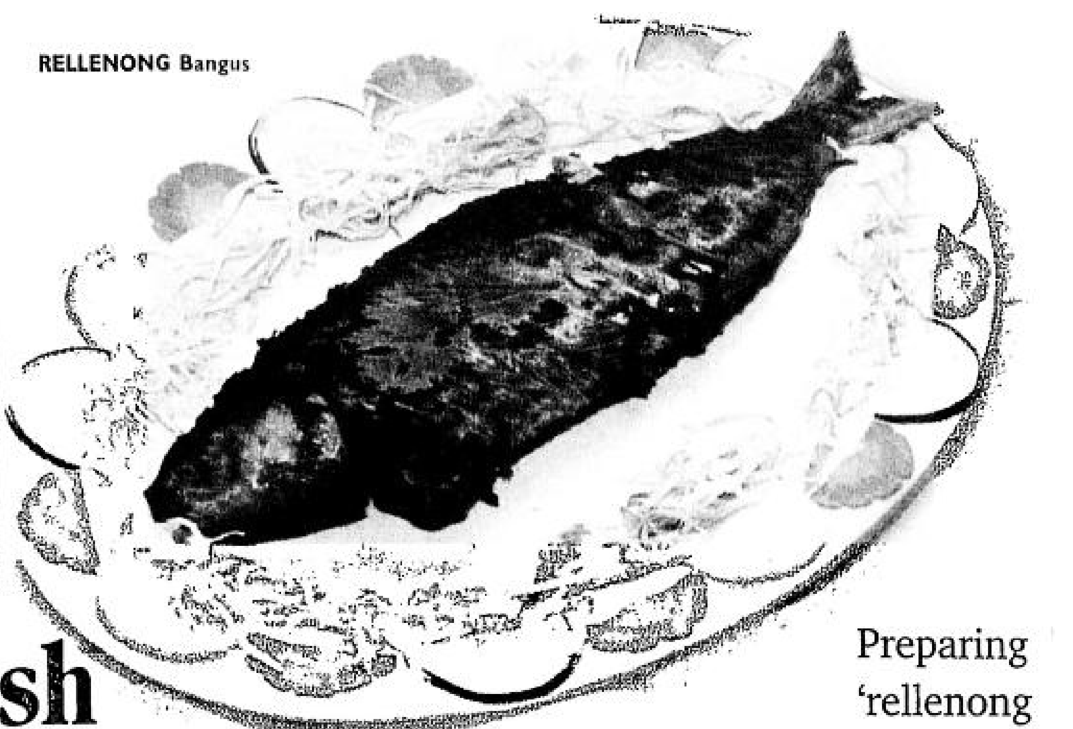
STUFFED Crab



RELLENONG Bangus

Seafood dishes in a flash

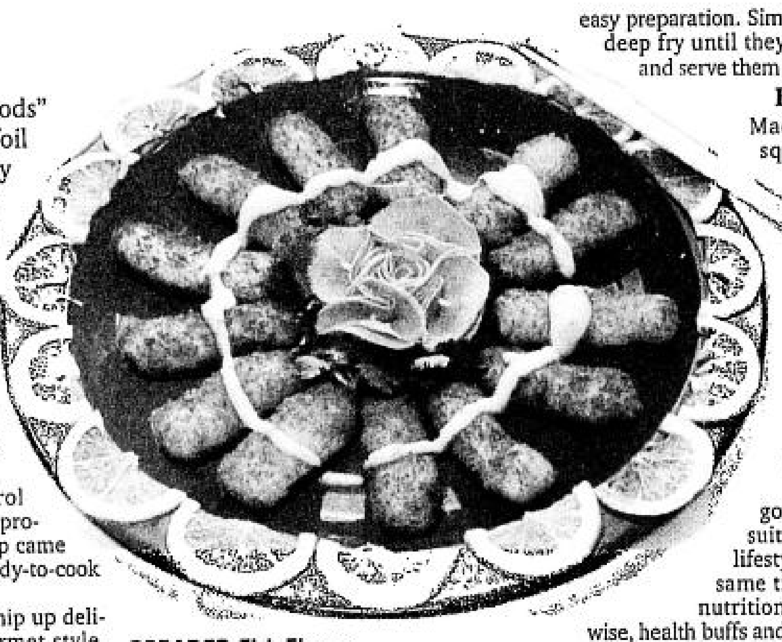
Preparing 'rellenong bangus,' calamari rings, fish franks or breaded crab cakes need not be a harried affair with these ready-to-cook gourmet products

By Rowena C. Burgos
Photos by Roger Carpio

DO the words "frozen foods" conjure up images of tinfoil trays with brownish-gray meatloaf and mushy potatoes? Seachamp Int'l. Export Corp. is out to change exactly such predisposition among frozen food consumers. It's opening a whole new world of frozen seafoods that, despite flash-freeze technology, are rich in vitamins, minerals and protein, and low in fat.

Aware of the fat and cholesterol contents of most locally available processed and frozen foods, Seachamp came up with Polar Brand, its line of ready-to-cook gourmet seafoods.

With such products, one can whip up delicious seafood dishes served gourmet style. They're already minced, breaded and stuffed for easy preparation. Simply pour oil into the pan, deep fry until they become golden brown, and serve them hot in just a few minutes.



BREADED Fish Fingers

Easy to serve

Made from real fish, crab, squid and shrimp meats, Seachamp's products include *rellenong bangus*, breaded calamari rings with tartar sauce, fish franks, breaded mini crab cakes with honey tartar sauce, squid rolls, breaded shrimp nuggets with sweet and sour sauce, and fish fingers with Dijon mustard sauce.

"These easy-to-serve gourmet seafood dishes will suit the changing tastes and lifestyles of Pinoys and, at the same time, satisfy the diet and nutrition needs of families. Likewise, health buffs and weight watchers who are concerned about high fat intake from meats and other fatty foods now have another option," says Anna Marie Sy, Seachamp's VP for operations and marketing.

Preparing meals need not be a harried affair, adds Sy. "We have come up with these products to give more variety to the market. Not only will Pinoys enjoy the convenience of preparation on top of good nutrition and taste, they'll have more choices, especially in time for the coming Lenten season."

For a speedy meal with lots of nutrition and less fat, head for the supermarkets where Seachamp products are offered. Take your pick from its all-natural fish burger patties, which has 83 percent less fat than regular hamburger; stuffed crab shells made from high-protein fresh crab meat; a combination of seafood balls made from real fresh fish, squid, shrimp and cuttlefish skewered in bamboo sticks; breaded shrimp popcorn available in three flavors: plain, Mexican barbecue and sour cream and onion; and high-protein fish franks, containing less than 2 percent fat.

Accredited exporter

Seachamp was established in 1988 as trader of seafood products. In 1990, it ventured into manufacturing, frosting and export of breaded shrimps, tuna, octopus, tropical fish, abalone, scallops, milkfish, black tiger shrimps, grouper, rabbit fish, parrot fish, *maya-maya* and squids.

"We are the only company in the country that has successfully manufactured microwaveable products for the Japanese market," says Sy. For this distinction, the Department of Trade and Industry awarded Seachamp the Golden Shell Award for Manufacturing Excellence in 1995. It's also one of the few accredited Philippine exporters certified by the European Union since 1996.

HUSBAND-AND-WIFE team: Reynaldo Sy, president of Seachamp Int'l. Export Corp., and Anna Marie Sy, VP for operations and marketing

The company currently exports to Canada, Japan, Hong Kong, the United States, Europe, Indonesia, Korea, China and Thailand. Its shipments undergo random verification by Societe Generale de Surveillance to ensure its adherence to the Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point. Major fast-food chains and restaurants also regularly use Seachamp's products.

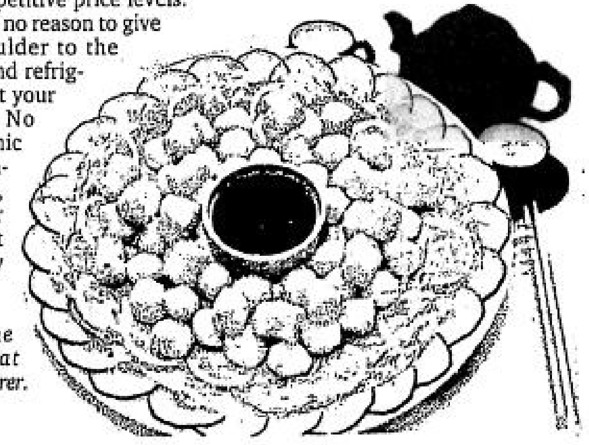
"We adhere to strict quality assurance procedures such as microbiological testing of our products. We set standards for outlets that carry them and monitor the freshness of our displayed items. This is how we ensure that our products remain safe and hygienic, even after it has left our plant," Sy says.

Its buying stations in Puerto Princesa and Coron in Palawan, Zamboanga, Surigao, Davao, Tabaco in Albay, Quezon and Manila ensure year-round availability of fresh raw materials at competitive price levels.

Now there's no reason to give the cold shoulder to the frozen food and refrigerated cases at your food store. No reason for panic when our family asks us, "What's for dinner?" It will be ready in a flash!

E-mail the author at rburgos@inquirer.com.ph

SQUID Rolls and Fish Balls



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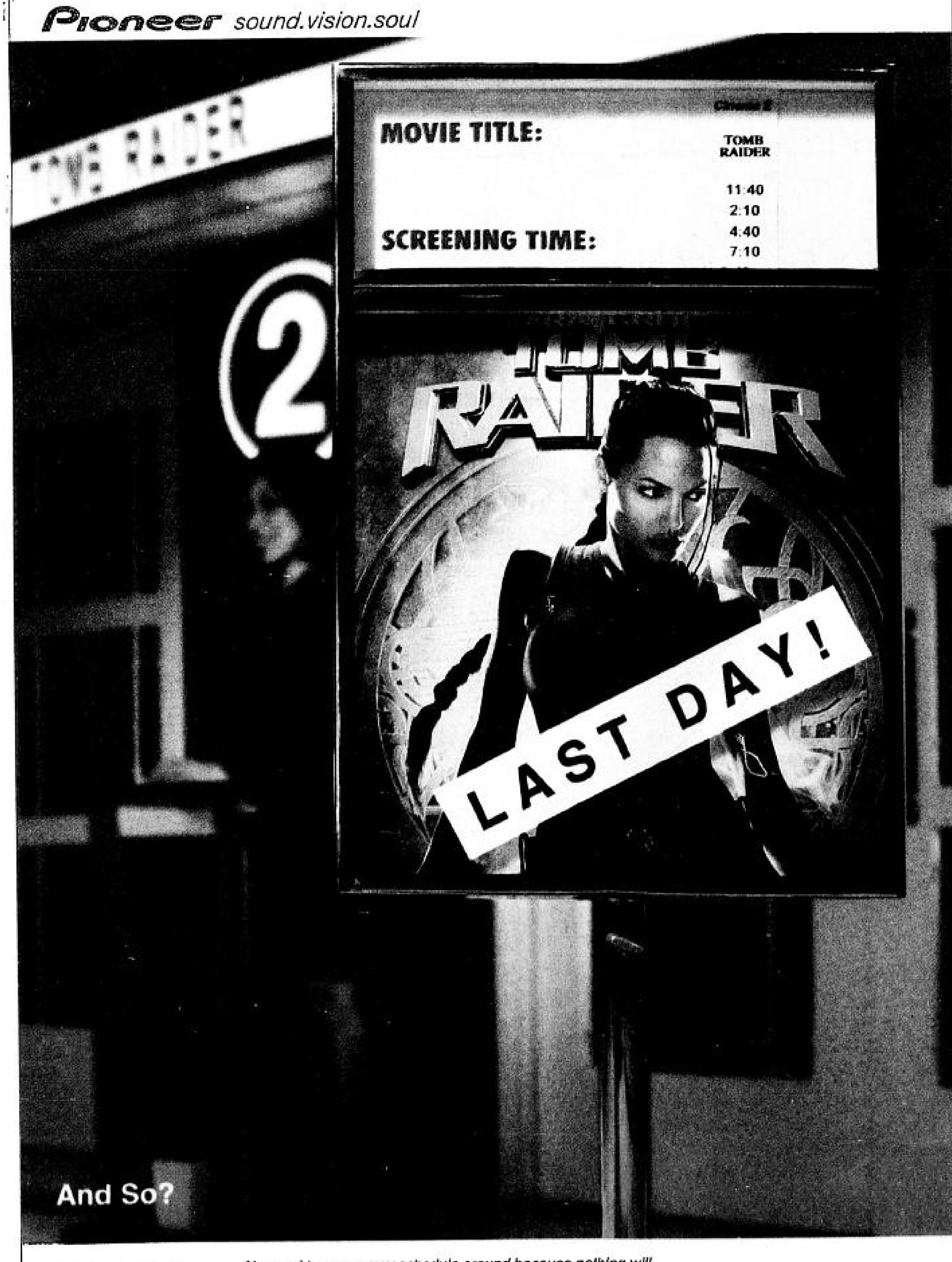

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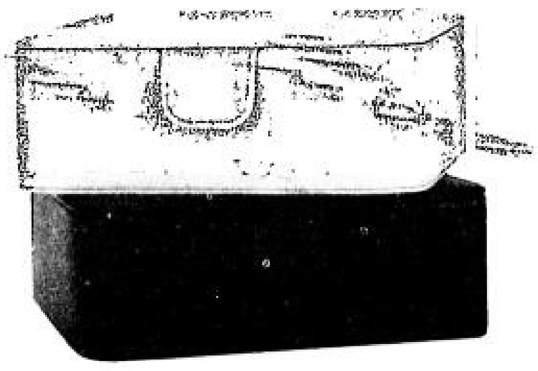

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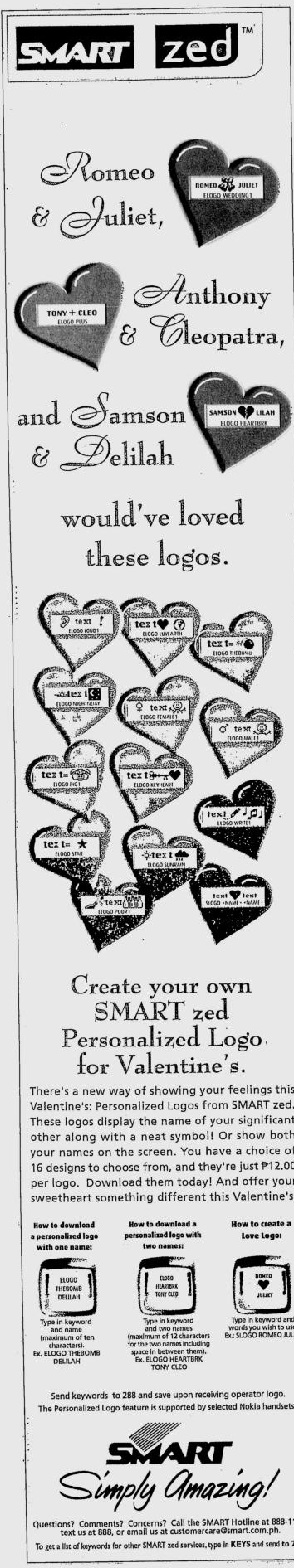

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Reggie Aspiras' culinary classes for February

THE REGGIE Aspiras School of Culinary Arts located at the Bon Apetit, 3/F Shangri-La Mall announces its classes for February.

Feb. 16: My Sinful Cheesecakes—Café Au Lait and Chocolate Cheesecake, White Chocolate and Lemon Cheesecake, Espresso and Chocolate Swirl Cheesecake, Old Fashioned New York-Style Cheesecake with two sauces; Mango and Berry, My Favorite Blueberry Cheesecake.

Feb. 20 and 22: California Cuisine—California Bread with Dipping Sauces, Tortilla Soup with Chicken and Lime, Baked Chill, Baja Chicken with Mango and Almond Rice, California Pizza-Style Steak, Orzo Risotto with Spicy Shrimp, Mussels and Peas, Almond Cake with Strawberries, Walnut and Pumpkin Pudding, Soy Honey Duck with Broccoli Noodles.

Feb. 23: Lasagne from Scratch—Classical Lasagne Al Forno, Seafood Lasagne with Basil Balsamella, Chicken with Roasted Capsicum Sauce, Citrus Smoked Salmon Lasagne with Garlic Chive Oil, Creamed Apple Lasagne

Feb. 25 and 27: Caribbean Cuisine—Mixed Vegetable Salad with Peanut Dressing, Bermuda Onion Soup, Black Bean and Avocado Soup Barbecued Chicken with Papaya Salsa and Corn Pancakes, Creole Steaks with Cinnamon Rice, Brazilian Seafood Stew, Carne Rellena with Fried Plantains, Chilean Casserole of Beef and Chicken, Chilean Chicken Stew with Pumpkin and Wild Rice, Coconut Lamb Racks, Cuban Ropa Vieja with Fried Plantains and Rice, Aruban Bread Pudding with Rum Sauce, Caribbean Rum Concoctions

For love of cooking

THE MAYA Culinary Arts Center celebrates the month of February with a different kind of love affair—love for food.

For those who are contemplating on becoming a restaurateur, Restaurant Operations will be offered on Feb. 16, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Learn the methods used in preparing commercial breads, pies and cakes, as well as costing and production batching with actual hands-on.

Cake lovers will find Cake Decoration a tempting experience on Feb. 16 and 23, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. This lecture workshop will focus on the fundamentals of cake decorating, coloring, designing, template, boiled, butter, caramel, chocolate and sugar icings, basic bordering, jelly lettering, basic flower making, bunching and motif, plus free decorating tips.

A hands-on course on Bakery and Bakeshop is scheduled on Feb. 23, 9 a m.-5 p.m. It will cover the commercial methods used in preparing breads, pies and cakes, including costing and production batching.

Visit the Maya Kitchen on the 8/F Liberty Building, A. Arnaiz Ave., Makati City or call 892-1185/5011/5011 local 108 or e-mail mayakitchen@pacific.net.ph.

How to take care of your fridge

KEEP your fridge in tip-top shape so you and your family can enjoy many years of efficient service from your appliance. Here are some refrigerator care tips from Glad Wraps and Bags:

- Fridge claustrophobia. Storing food and leftovers in the fridge can oftentimes be problematic. (Plastic containers can take up so much refrigerator space.) Avoid overcrowding your fridge by using Glad Cling Wrap and Glad Storage Bags. Glad Cling Wrap stretches on and clings without splitting and is perfect for storing meat and fish.
- Stinky-fishy syndrome. Prevent bacteria from hanging around in your fridge by cleaning it out once a week. If you stuff your fridge full, air won't be able to circulate freely and cause food to spoil early. To keep drinking water from "smelling fishy," make sure to cover or wrap all foods to prevent the transfer of odors. Check for spills and spoiled foods regularly as these can stain your appliance and create foul odors in the refrigerator.
- Cleaning and defrosting. Clean your appliance by following instructions in the manual. Shelves and drawers can be washed using a mild detergent solution; clean interior walls and linings with baking soda and warm water. You know it's time to defrost your appliance when ice has built up to a thickness between ¼ inch and ½ inch. Never break off freezer ice with a sharp instrument. Remember to unplug the refrigerator before defrosting; when turning freezer back on, close the refrigerator door and let the appliance run for about 10-15 minutes before putting food back in the freezer. Use Glad Freezer Bags when storing food in your freezer because they have a write-on panel for easy identification, so you don't have to waste energy keeping the door open longer than necessary.
- Energy efficiency. Place the fridge away from direct sunlight and heat sources like the cooking stove. Keep foods covered so they won't release moisture and make the compressor work extra hard. Refrigerator doors should be closed tight and frost build-up should be checked periodically so you don't overwork your motor.

Treat your appliance well so it will love you back. Glad has been helping people around the world deal with household dilemmas for many years now. Glad offers practical solutions to hardworking homemakers so they can spend more time with the family, take it easy and chill out.

LIFESTYLE Tastes

The joys around a Chef's Table

IN THE ART nouveau Lopez house at 455 Guevarra St. in San Juan (tel. 725-5089, 726-9326), chef-restaurateur-fencer-writer-TV personality Gene Gonzalez established Café Ysabel, the first restaurant he ever founded, and his school, the Center for Asian Culinary Studies—also a first.

CHEF Gene Gonzalez working the stove.

When the right stars—luck, personalities—gather in the firmament, all can coalesce into an event, an occasion unique and memorable

IN GOOD TASTE

Doreen G. Fernandez

When the right stars—luck, personalities—gather in the firmament, all can coalesce into an event, an occasion unique and memorable. This was the Chef's Table, which Gene brought together one January evening.

The first star would be the school, located in a street-level kiosk where once sushi-sashimi, then *bibingka*, were offered. Now it is the home of the Profession Culinary Arts Program, which "prepares students for professional entry into the food service industry," training chefs in classical and modern culinary techniques, kitchen management, products and produce. The program runs for nine months (February to October), and has 30 slots for applicants. It has already graduated professional chefs, like Patricia Mesina, founder of Kulinarya restaurant, and others apprenticing with Gene as *chefs de partie*, and in other professional kitchens.

The school also offers Recreational and One-day Business Classes, with topics like Japanese Meals, Breads, Baking, Sausages, Pasta, Chocolate Desserts, Sausages, Everyday Meals, Panini, Crab is King, and many others, taught by partners Jill Sandique and Gene, and other professional faculty. These draw housewives, skilled or learning cooks, youngsters, prospective restaurant owners, and the like.

Choice gathering

At a Chef's Table the host gathers guests—perhaps other chefs, friends and fans, food critics and patrons, and anyone else of like spirit. One can request or book such table (here or abroad), but this time Gene gathered the stars himself for a purpose: to reintroduce writer Blanche D. Locsin of Food Arts magazine, New York, to Filipino food—as reinterpreted by him and his chefs.

The constellation thus consisted of Gene, his assistant Cherry Y. Santiago and chefs David M. Fajardo Jr., Edmond Rodriguez and Ferdinand Mitchell Murallion; and 10 guests, among them artists Allan and Ivi Avellana Cosio, theater-opera critic Juan Lanuza, chocolatiére Christine Paredes and investment banker Luigi Bernas, who is embarking on an Italian food-and-cooking sabbatical. We all sat in the school (room? house?) at close quarters: Gene and the chefs on one side, we on the other, with the stove and the dining table between us. All food was prepared in front of us: the meat cleaned and sliced, the *bangus* made into roulades, the dishes plated and garnished, the ice cream processed, with Gene teaching, explaining and annotating.

The menu started with Ensaladang Tagaytay, Kulawong Talong sa Itum and Sisig Lamig. A cross-regional Luzon dish it was: salad greens from Tagaytay highlands, fire-roasted eggplants in a vinaigrette with *gata* from charred grated coconut (San Pablo, Laguna), a terrine of Pampango *sisig* and Sulipan *lengua escarlata*, home-smoked. At once there were pleas: package both terrine and *lengua*, please, and sell them. "I have not tasted *lengua escarlata* since Spain," said Juan. Gene is indeed considering a line of such products.

The soup was a salute to Blanche's Ilonggo background: Binakol nga Manok, reinterpreted in a modern lexicon. The free-range chicken appeared as delicate quenelles, the *buko* as fine strands of flavor. Water chestnuts (*apulid*) contributed crunch, and the broth turned light and comforting, fusing all flavors. It was still another star.

Sarangaya (Cotabato) boneless *bangus* bellies came next, salt-crusted and made into roulades with prawn cores, and squid ink and mango sauces—a symphony of colors and tastes.

A *dalandan* sorbet eased away flavors already past, in preparation for the meat entrée: carabeef tenderloin, would you believe, in a sauce of Ilocos (remember the Basi revolts?) *basing babae* (gentler than *basing lalake*), accompanied by *majang ihaw na mais* (roasted corn flan, which Gene compared to polenta), *okoy* fritters of red beets and yellow squash, and chico chips. Alongside this Gene had prepared his version of the French tripe-filled *andouillettes* (garlic sausages), which he served later.

Ylang-ylang-scented

All throughout we had white wine then red, chatted about food and its occasions, about art and its patrons and performers. All the while Allan Cosio was painting on a handheld board, which none of us could see as it progressed, because the close quarters did not allow for walking and nosing around. It turned out to be a painting of the Chef's Table.

The final pause was the dessert wait: the chefs poured the ice cream mixture—perfumed and sparked by sensuously fragrant vodka-soaked ylang-ylang (1 year old)—and

THE JOYS/ p.D3

THE COLUMNIST (standing) with Blanche Locsin and Juan Lanuza

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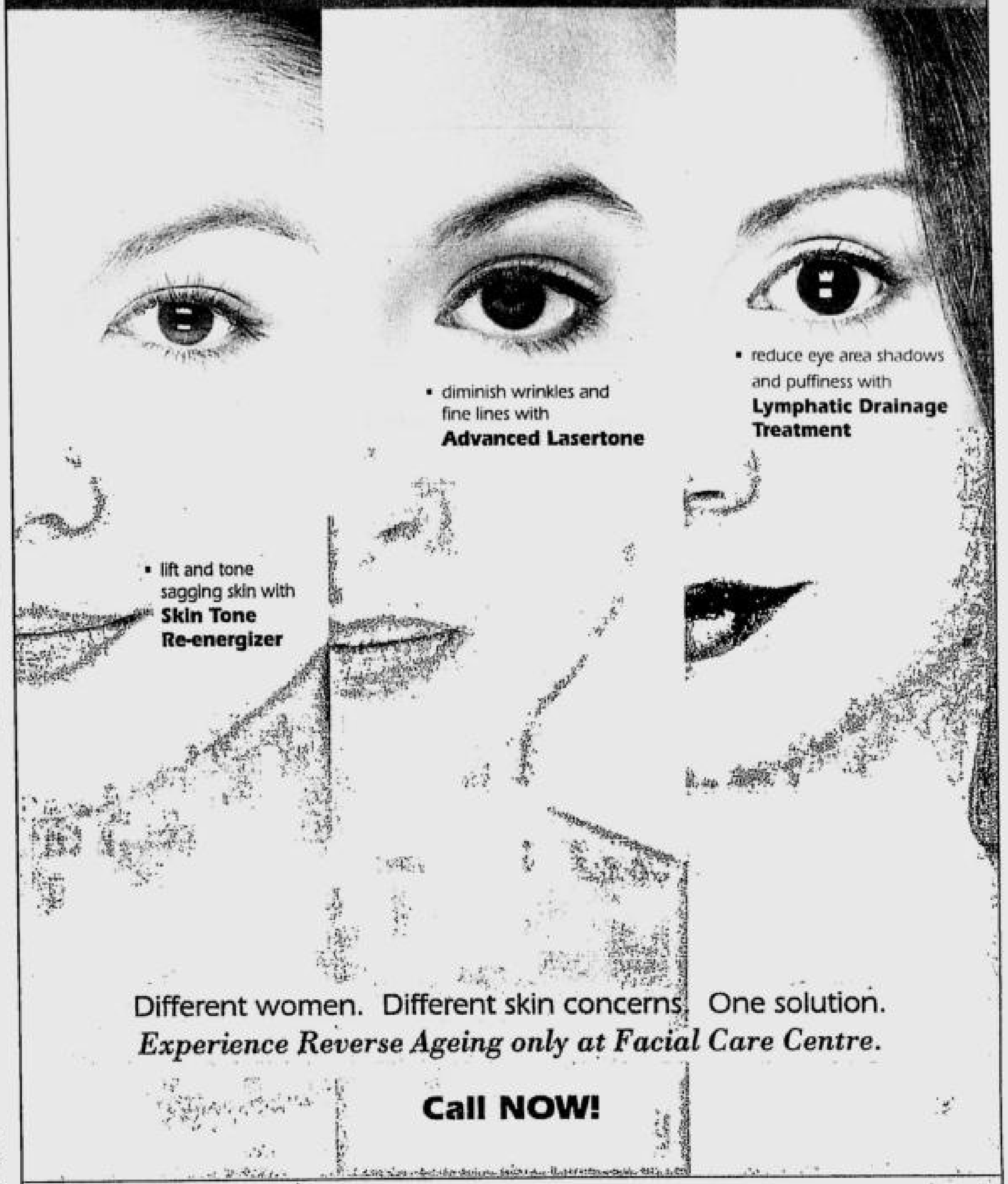
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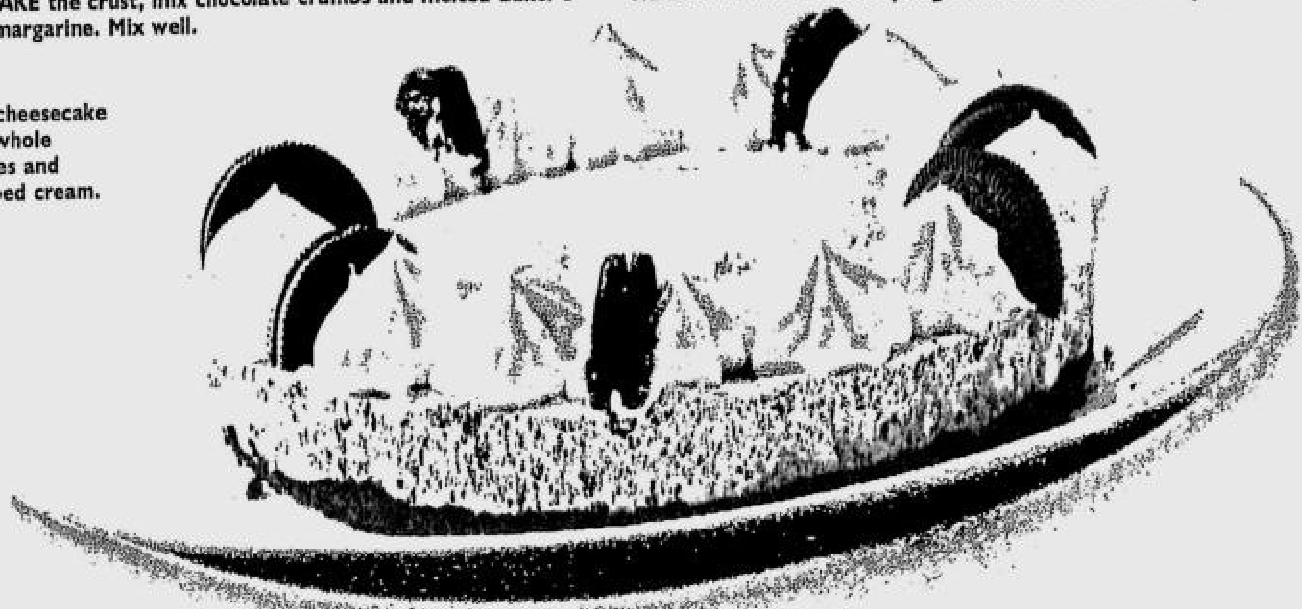
TO MAKE the crust, mix chocolate crumbs and melted Baker's Best margarine. Mix well.

TRANSFER into a 9-inch springform removable bottom pan.

SPREAD evenly and press the crumbs firmly. Chill.

TOP cheesecake with whole cookies and whipped cream.



No-bake *cheesecake is as yummy as the* original

This easy-to-make cake is ideal for those who do not have ovens at home

By Vangie Baga-Reyes
Photos by Mike Alquinto

HERE'S a classic dessert one will never tire of. This easy no-bake cheesecake uses store-bought chocolate cookies with cream filling. The cookies are crushed to make fine crumbs. If you find Oreo costly, the local Hi-Ro, Cream-O or Chokies will do just as well. The cookies are folded into the cream cheese, one of the main ingredients for this recipe.

This easy-to-make cake is ideal for those who do not have ovens at home. Although the no-bake version is simpler and does not take a lot of time to make, it is just as rich, dense, creamy and dreamy as the other kind.

Simply mix all the ingredients together, blend them well and voila! You have an instant, delicious dessert that will impress your family and friends.

Helene Pontejos, culinary services manager of the San Miguel Food Group, suggests that the cheesecake be arranged on a pretty platter or tiered cake stand for a charming presentation. Dress up the cake with chocolate cookies on top. Makes 12 slices.

STEP BY STEP

Ingredients:

1½ c chocolate cookie crumbs
¼ c Magnolia Baker's Best Margarine, melted

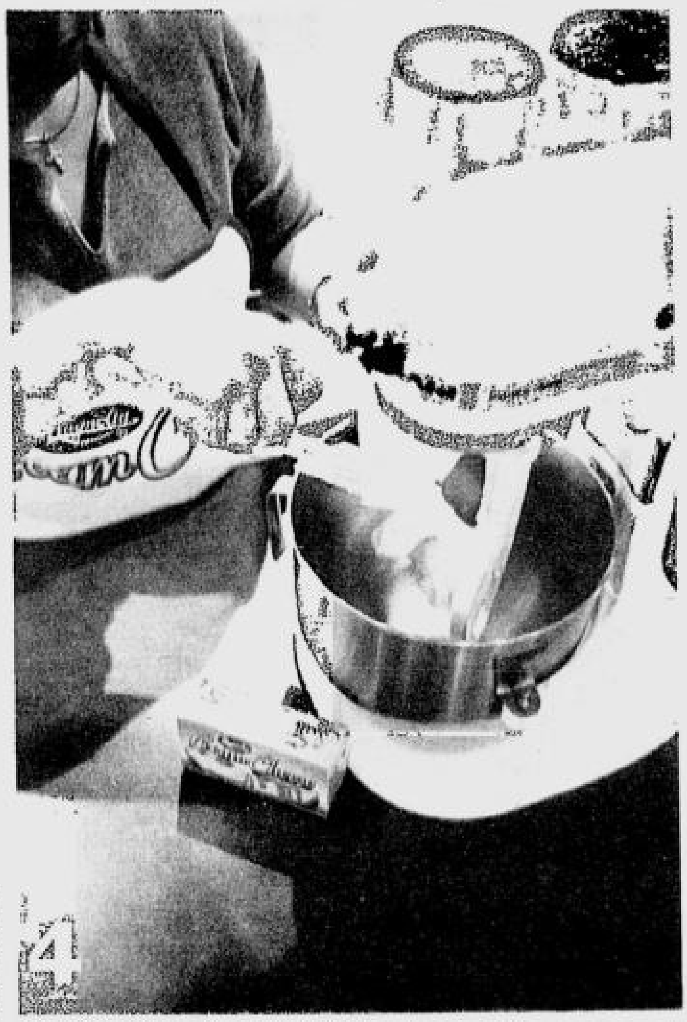
Filling:

1 pkg Magnolia cream cheese, softened
¼ c sugar
1 tbsp unflavored gelatin
3 tbsp full-cream milk
1 c all purpose cream, chilled
1 c chocolate cookie crumbs, coarsely chopped

Topping:

¼ c chocolate cookie crumbs

E-mail the author at vbaga@inquirer.com.ph



TO MAKE the filling, beat cream cheese and sugar at medium speed until light and well blended.

DISSOLVE unflavored gelatin in milk over low heat and add to the beaten cream cheese while still hot. Continue beating to blend well.

IN A SEPARATE bowl, whip cream at high speed until stiff and fold into cream cheese mixture.

REMOVE mixture from mixer and fold in coarsely chopped cookies.

POUR into crumb-lined pan.

SPREAD evenly and chill to set.

Megastar's fave foods and drinks

MEGASTAR foodie Sharon Cuneta reveals her favorite foods and drinks in the January-February issue of Food, the Magazine of Good Cooking, published by ABS-CBN Publishing.

In the special double issue, trend-setting chef and restaurateur Margarita "Gaita" Fores shares the hospitality of her home with a spread of excellent dishes presented in an earthy and elegant table setting, blending funky flea market finds and old acquisitions. Among the dishes she features are roast porchetta panini, smoked salmon insalata, spaghettini with walnut-sultana-Parma ham sauce and croquembouche.

In "Cooking Classics," food critic Doreen Fernandez tells an imagined history of how *pancit* took place on the Filipino table, coming from the Chinese and acquiring a Spanish spelling. Also featured is a recipe for *pancit*.

Food also celebrates the Chinese New Year with a special feature on lucky foods that the Chinese community prepares to bring health, wealth and a prosperous life. Recipes of the Eight-Jewel Roast Duck and *kiampong*, Chinese version of the *paella*, are likewise featured. To complement the article, the "Step-by-Step" section shows how to make *buchi*, a sweet dessert of Chinese origin.

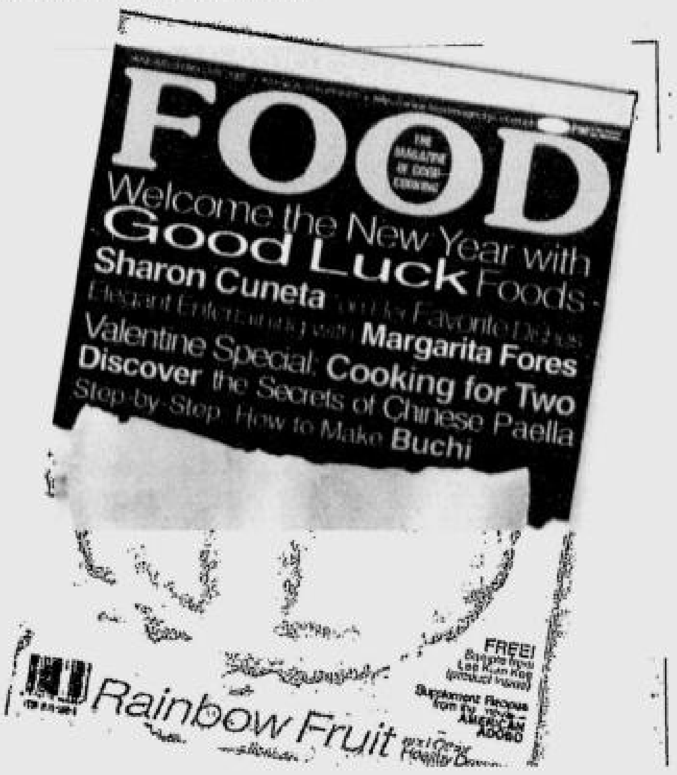
Great low-sugar fruit desserts to help make up for the holiday over-eating include Rainbow Fruits, Fruit Meringue Sandwich, Pavlvova with Fruit Balls and Yoghurt Dressing, Fruits and Yoghurt with Chocolate Sauce and Mango Floating Island.

Eating tips on how to get back on track are listed by consulting nutritionist Sanirose Orbeta, who advises that one need not panic after dietary lapses during the holidays.

As a Valentine treat, Chef Jundy Gueco gives readers practical advice on romantic dining and recipes for an intimate dinner for two. Rikka Dylim also interviews celebrities such as Aga Muhlach, Jolina Magdangal, Ces Drilon, Vanessa del Bianco, Diether Ocampo, Karen Davila, Carlos Agassi and Angel Aquino on their favorite Valentine getaways.

Dish for the Month is the melt-in-the month foie gras of Lolo Dad's restaurant.

Food's exclusive four-week menu guide was prepared for this special issue by the Food Nutrition Research Institute.


FOOD
Welcome the New Year with Good Luck Foods
Sharon Cuneta
Margarita Fores
Valentine Special: Cooking for Two
Discover the Secrets of Chinese Paella
Step-by-Step: How to Make Buchi
FREE!
Rainbow Fruit

CHEF David Fajardo Jr. preparing carabeef tenderloin.

CHEF Edmond Rodriguez plating the *bangus* belly/prawn roulades with squid ink sauce.

ALLAN Cosio and his painting of the guests that evening.

The joys around a Chef's Table

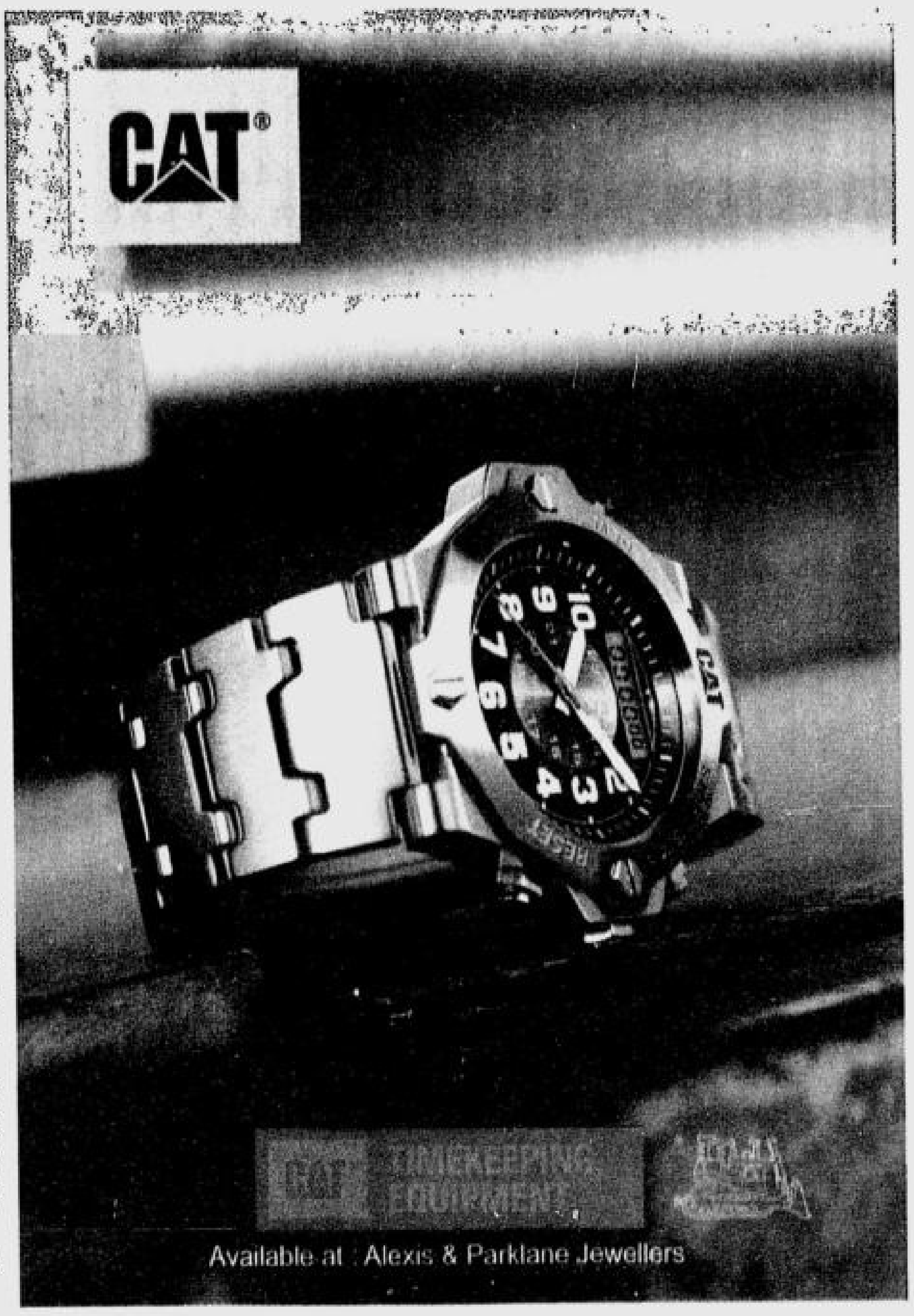
ARTISTS Allan and Ivi Avellana-Cosio and their daughter

From page D1

we watched it turn from liquid to divine cream. It was scooped from there to our plates, and accompanied by wild guava *confit* and a tiny *turon* (banana in *lumpia* wrapper). Second and third helpings, coffee or tea, more conversation, sparkling eyes, pink cheeks, smiles and laughter ended the evening.

It was a gathering of the evening's delights: the smooth working relationships in the school; the talent of the chefs; the interest and interests of the congenial guests; the dishes that drew from tradition and flirted with innovation, the magical melds of people, ideas and sensory experience; the serendipity of stars.

It was one night's joy—accessible to you as well.



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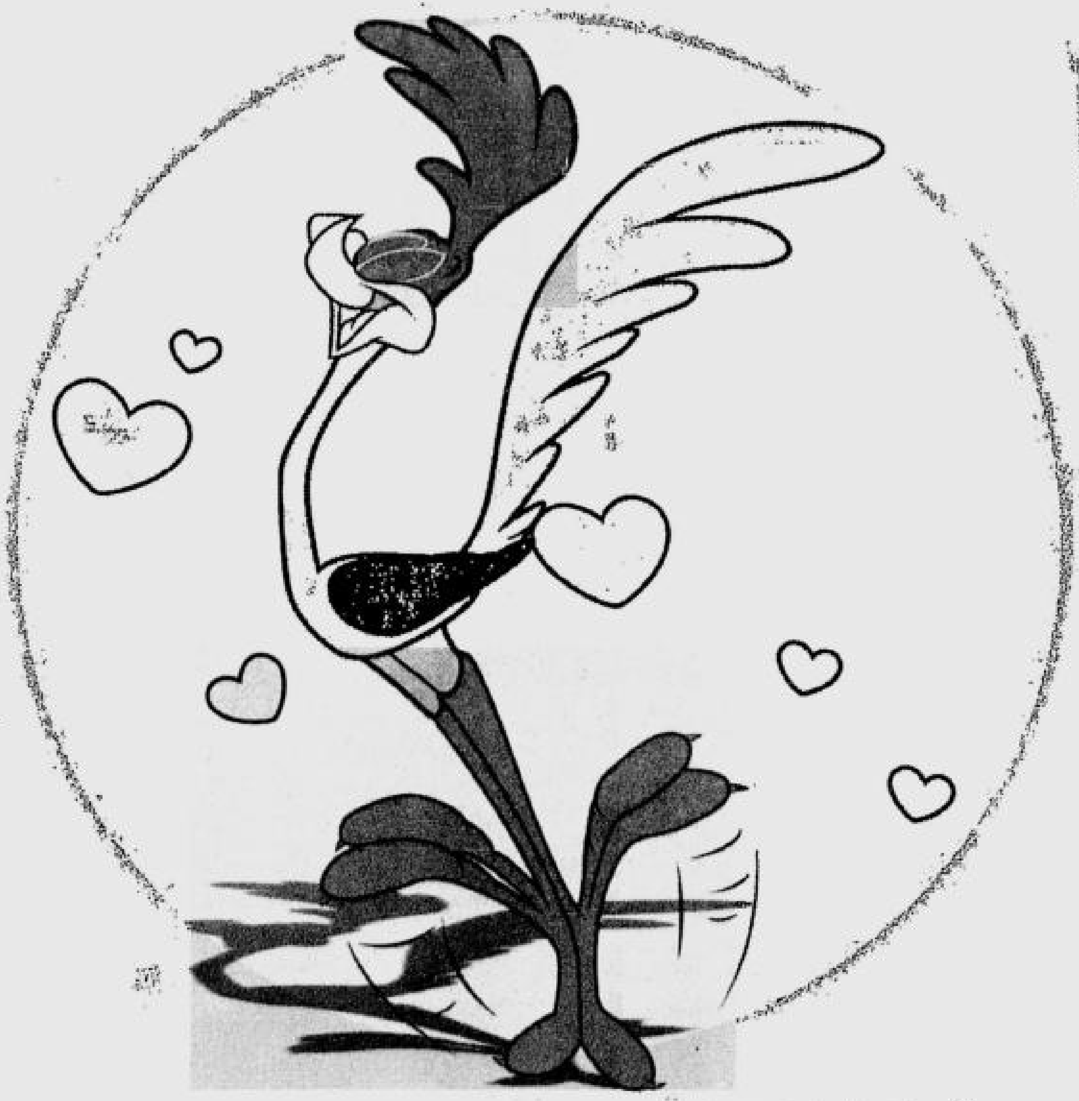

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SEAFOOD Farfalle

CUSTOM creations by the chefs at Aresi highlighted Fly Ace's Mediterranean Getaway Dining Club dinner, with the theme "Neapolitan Nightlife."

Host James Paolelli extolled the health virtues of the Mediterranean diet. Ironically, despite the many rich delicacies that come from Italy, denizens of that region enjoy one of the longest and disease-free life spans in the world.

The recipes for the evening—from the appetizer Seafood Farfalle to the main course Beef Marsala with Greens to the dessert Panna Cotta—featured products native to the region including: Pietro Coricelli Olive Oil and Federici pasta (from Italy) along with Doña Maria Olives and Doña Elena Sardines (from Spain).

Seafood Farfalle

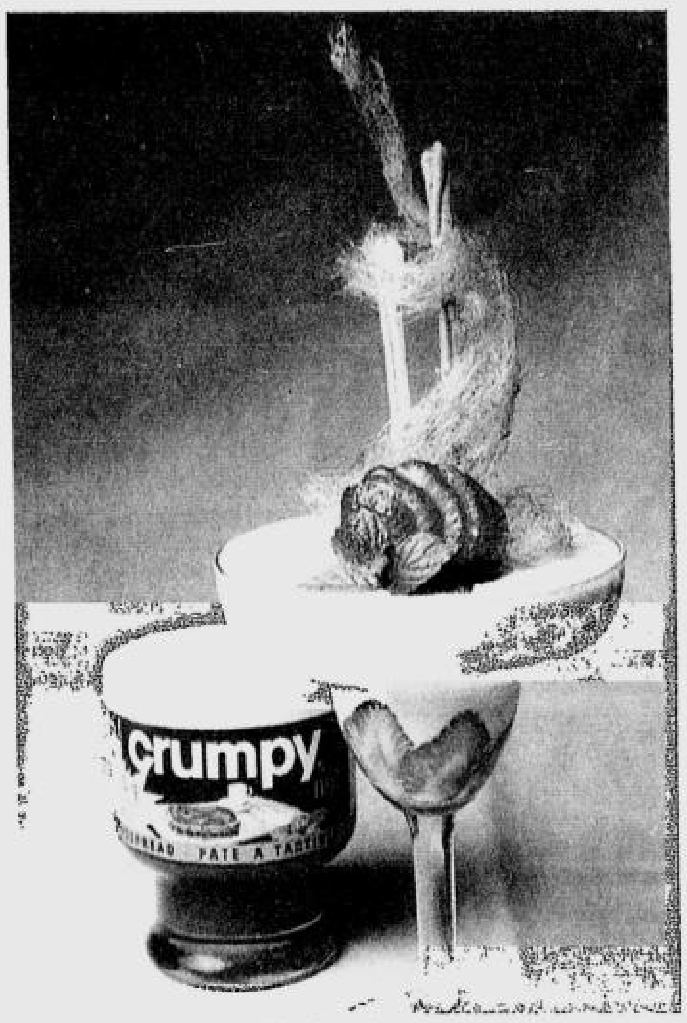
For the seafood:
30 ml Pietro Coricelli olive oil
30 g garlic
50 g cuttlefish
1 pc mussel
30 ml white wine
Salt and pepper

For the sauce:
40 g eggplant
40 g zucchini
40 g red bell pepper
40 g green bell pepper
20 g onions
45 ml Pietro Coricelli olive oil
30 g garlic
Salt and pepper
125 ml tomato sauce

For the sauce: Marinate the vegetables with olive oil and garlic. Season with salt and pepper and leave at room temperature for 1 hour. Grill the vegetables. Puree half of the vegetables and add the tomato sauce. Reserve the other half for garnish.

For the seafood: Sauté the garlic, cuttlefish and mussels. Deglaze with white wine. Season with salt and pepper.

Assembly: Sauté garlic. Add the pureed vegetables. Season with salt and pepper. Add the cooked pasta. Transfer to a plate, top with the reserved grilled vegetables, sauteed cuttlefish and mussels.



PANNA Cotta and Strawberry Amaretto

Grilled Beef Marsala with Greens

For the cannoli (10 pieces):
Plain Dough
1 c all-purpose flour
1 pc egg
3 g salt
2 g ground pepper

A Valentine Message
to the
Best Mother of all,
My Mom

If I had to pick one thing
about you, Mom,
that makes you so special,
I don't think it would be possible,
I couldn't begin to count my first apple,
when you sent me to Ateneo,
the number of times
you tolerated my moods,

consoled my heartbreaks and disappointments,
endured my ups and downs,
listened to words confused by tears,
and just simply understood
for no other reason than
because you love me.
The years hold precious memories,
but most of all, they hold growth,
In a way, we grew up together.
There's still some growing left to do,
but one thing becomes more clear to me

with each passing day
and I hope you know,
that i'll be one of the World's Best.

There's no other mom like you,
And I love you very much.

- ELDEST SON
DANIEL VELASCO

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Paprika Strip
¾ c all-purpose flour
1 pc egg
3 g salt
2 g ground pepper

For the polenta (2 portions):
¾ c polenta, coarse
750 ml chicken stock
250 ml milk
3 g salt
2 g ground pepper
15 g ground Parmesan cheese
10 g butter

For the mixed greens:
20 g different types of lettuce leaves
10 ml basic vinaigrette

For the beef medallions (1 portion):
2 pc (50 g each) beef tenderloin in medallions
5 g fennel seeds
10 g garlic, minced
4 g salt
2 g ground pepper

For the sauce:
Balsamic Reduction
60 ml balsamic vinegar
30 ml honey
30 g raisins
5 g butter

Marsala Sauce
30 ml marsala wine
5 g roasted garlic
45 ml demi-glaze (reduced brown stock)
5 g butter
3 g salt
2 g ground pepper

For the savory cannoli:
Plain Dough
Mix all ingredients. Knead for about 8 minutes. Then rest. With a pasta machine, roll out the dough into sheets. Cut sheets into 10 1x6" rectangular strips.

Paprika Strips
Mix all ingredients. Knead for about 8 minutes. Then rest. With a pasta machine, roll out the dough and cut into strips.

Assembly of Cannoli
Put paprika strips in the middle of the plain dough. Roll it out again in the pasta machine. Wrap it in a stainless steel ring mold. Repeat steps 1-3 with the rest of the dough.

For the greens mixture: Toss greens lightly with vinaigrette.

For the polenta: In a pan, heat up the stock and milk. Season with salt and pepper. Add the polenta. Stir until cooked. Finish off with Parmesan and butter. The polenta is cooked if it is not gritty when you taste it.

For the medallions: Mix all ingredients. Marinate for at least an hour. Grill to desired doneness.

For the sauce:
Balsamic Reduction
In a pan, combine the ingredients. Reduce until slightly thick. Finish off with butter.

Marsala Sauce
In a pan, reduce marsala wine with the roasted garlic. Add the demi-glaze. Season with salt and pepper. Finish off with butter.

Assembly of the dish: Layer the polenta alternately with the medallions. Arrange the salad inside the cannoli. Pour the sauce on the side of the plate. Serve.

Panna Cotta and Strawberry Amaretto

For the panna cotta (3 servings):
450 ml whipping cream
¼ tsp cinnamon
3 tbsp Kahlua
4 tbsp sugar
1½ gelatin

For the strawberry in Amaretto (3 servings):
5 pc strawberry
1 tsp Amaretto
½ c sugar
½ c water

For the almond biscotti (20 servings):
375 g all-purpose flour
100 g ground almonds
1 tsp baking soda
½ tsp salt
1 tsp cinnamon
2 pc eggs
200 g sugar
120 g brown sugar
60 g vanilla
1 tsp Frangelico
62.5 Crumpy Hazelnut Spread

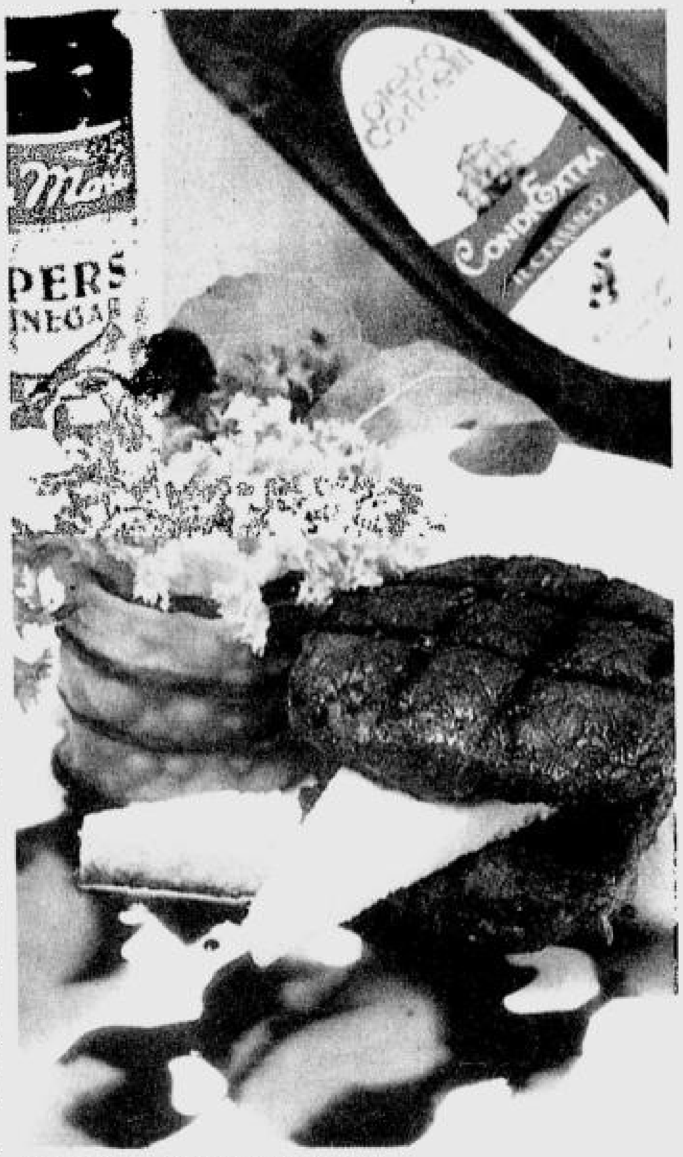
For the panna cotta: Combine gelatin, cinnamon, sugar and milk. Heat until gelatin dissolves, let it cool. Set aside. Whip the cream until soft peaks from and fold it with the milk mixture. Add Kahlua. Mix well until well incorporated.

For the strawberry in Amaretto: Slice fresh strawberry. Marinate with sugar syrup and Amaretto.

For the almond biscotti: Combine all ingredients until if forms into a soft dough. Divide it into 4 logs. Brush it with milk. Bake at 350ºF until the surface turns brown. Remove from the oven. Slice into half-inch thick. Then bake at 325ºF until the center turns light brown.

For the assembly: Arrange the strawberry slices around the bottom of the glass. Layer the biscotti crumbs alternately with the panna cotta mixture, finishing off with the panna cotta. Chill for 3 hours before serving.

You may garnish with tuille stick, spun sugar and fresh strawberry.



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Bakit pa	Jessa Zaragoza	bakitpa
Be my lady	Martin Nievera	bemylady
Can't take my eyes off you	Andy Williams	cantake
Crush ng bayan	Cris Villonco	crushng
Dahil tanging ikaw	Jaya	dahil
Di ba't ikaw	Jessa Zaragoza	dibatika
Dito sa puso ko	Jaya	ditosapu
Grow old with you	Adam Sandler	growold
I can dream about you	Dan Hartman	dreamabt
If you could read my mind	Stars on 54/Jeannie Riley	readmind
Ikaw lang at ako	Sharon Cuneta	ikawlang
Kaba	Tootsie Guevarra	kaba
Looking through the eyes of love	Broadway Hit - Ice Castle	lukngtru
Mahal pa rin kita	Rockstar	mahalpar

Title	Artist	Keyword
Mr. Kupido	Rachel Alejandro	mrkupido
Para sa'yo	Randy Santiago	parasayo
Seasons of love	Theme from Rent	seasnluv and seasnluv1
Stars	Simply Red	stars
Stop! In the name of love	Diana Ross	stop
Til my heartaches end	Ella May Saison	tilmy
To sir with love	Norman Percival and his Orchestra	tosir
Wedding march	Mendelssohn, Felix	wedding2
Will you still love me tomorrow	Carole King	luvmetom and willyou
You can't hurry love	Phil Collins	canthury
You make me feel like a natural woman	Carole King	woman
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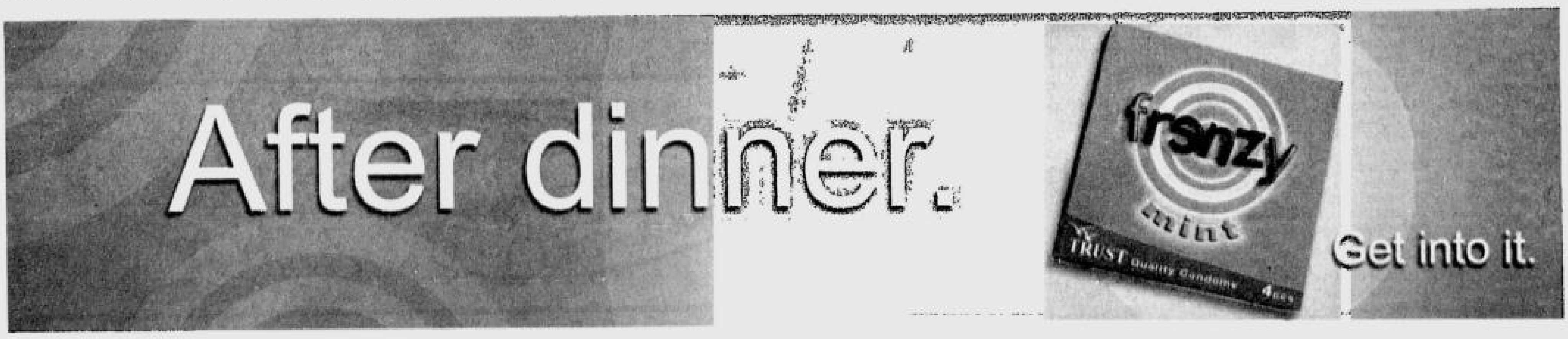
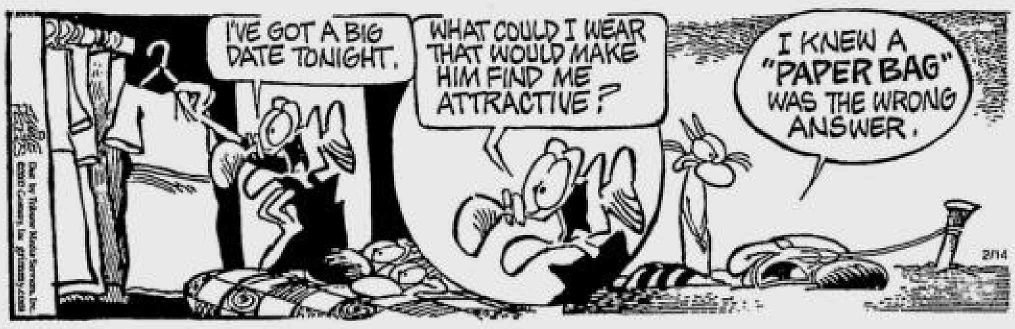
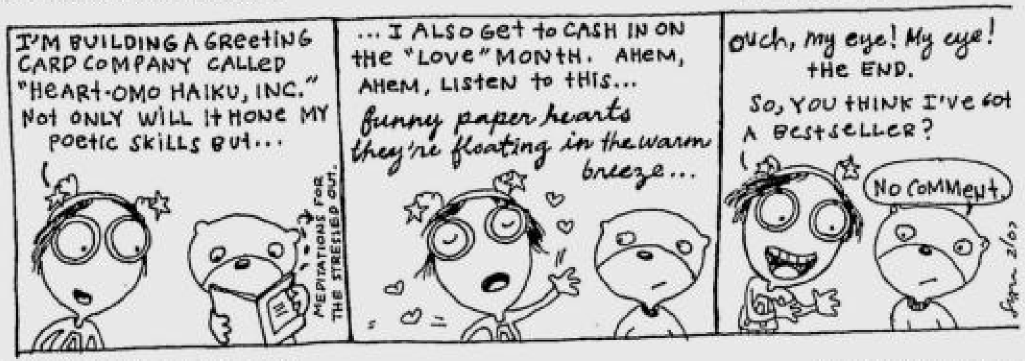


ComicRelief

MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM BY MIKE PETERS


I'VE GOT A BIG DATE TONIGHT.
WHAT COULD I WEAR THAT WOULD MAKE HIM FIND ME ATTRACTIVE?
I KNEW A "PAPER BAG" WAS THE WRONG ANSWER.
2/14

ATOMO AND WEBOY BY LYRA GARCELLANO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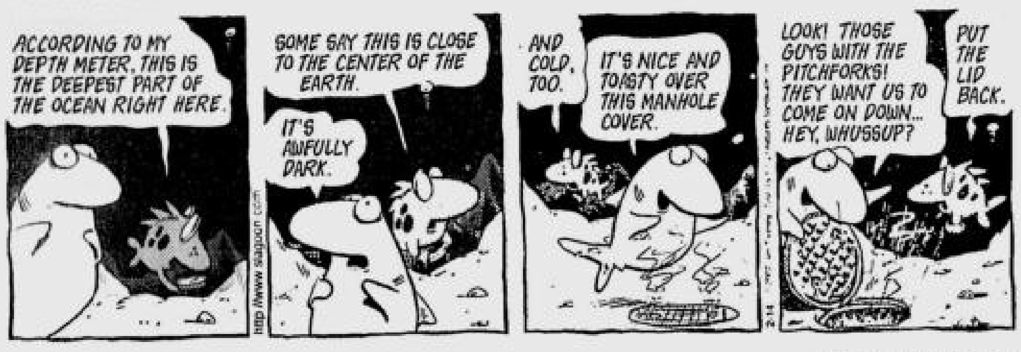
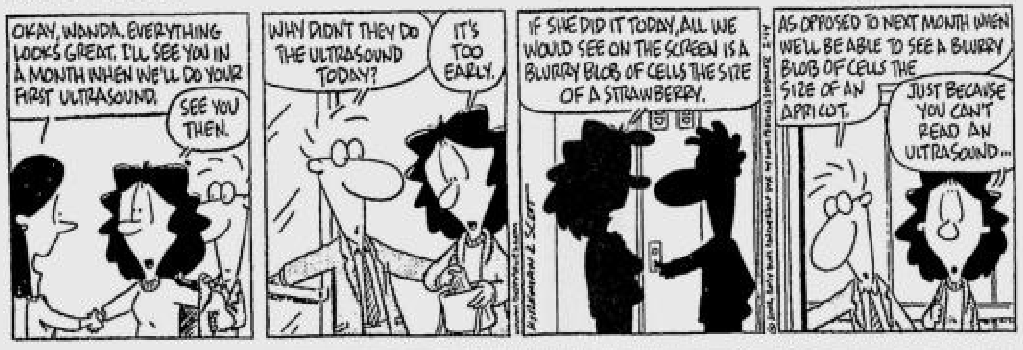
funny paper hearts they're floating in the warm breeze...
ouch, my eye! My eye! THE END.
SO, YOU THINK I'VE GOT A BESTSELLER?
NO COMMENT.

SHERMAN'S LAGOON BY JIM TOOMEY


ACCORDING TO MY DEPTH METER, THIS IS THE DEEPEST PART OF THE OCEAN RIGHT HERE.
SOME SAY THIS IS CLOSE TO THE CENTER OF THE EARTH.
IT'S AWFULLY DARK.
AND COLD, TOO.
IT'S NICE AND TOASTY OVER THIS MANHOLE COVER.
LOOK! THOSE GUYS WITH THE PITCHFORKS! THEY WANT US TO COME ON DOWN... HEY, WHUSSUP?
PUT THE LID BACK.

BABY BLUES BY JERRY SCOTT


OKAY, WANDA. EVERYTHING LOOKS GREAT. I'LL SEE YOU IN A MONTH WHEN WE'LL DO YOUR FIRST ULTRASOUND.
SEE YOU THEN.
WHY DIDN'T THEY DO THE ULTRASOUND TODAY?
IT'S TOO EARLY.
IF SHE DID IT TODAY, ALL WE WOULD SEE ON THE SCREEN IS A BLURRY BLOB OF CELLS THE SIZE OF A STRAWBERRY.
AS OPPOSED TO NEXT MONTH WHEN WE'LL BE ABLE TO SEE A BLURRY BLOB OF CELLS THE SIZE OF AN APRICOT.
JUST BECAUSE YOU CAN'T READ AN ULTRASOUND...

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Gregory Hines, Florence Henderson, Meg Tilly, Drew Bledsoe

Happy Birthday: You will know how to work within a group this year, and your networking skills will be terrific. You will work hard in order to afford the luxuries that you desire and you won't be hesitant to put time and effort into your home. Your numbers are 3, 6, 17, 25, 29, 41

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Don't be afraid to start something new. You'll do surprisingly well if you try. Opportunities to make money will surface.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): You will meet some pretty neat people if you take part in the activities and events going on in your community. Take the initiative and you can end up being in a leadership position.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): You have to be careful what you say to whom. Don't stretch the truth. You may get blamed for something you didn't do.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Get involved in groups that can offer you stimulating conversation and a new way of looking at things. Your opportunities to expand your circle of friends look promising.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): You will be emotional about money matters. Stop being so generous with your friends and family. If you are smart with your cash you will lock it up in a solid investment.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): You'll have to be careful how you deal with your partner today. Time spent with friends may be fun but if someone you love is feeling left out you may end up in an emotional feud.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): You will have some unusual ideas regarding your work. Present your ideas and you will find yourself moving into fast-forward professionally. Your extra efforts will be noticed.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Traveling for business or in search of the truth will lead to new friendships and philosophies. You will be able to contribute something worthwhile to any group you are involved with.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Don't become emotional about the situations going on around you. Don't ignore matters that need to be tended to. If you make changes you will feel better about yourself and your future.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Someone you have befriended may have a greater interest in you. Be careful not to lead someone on. Be honest about the way you feel and a long lasting friendship can develop.

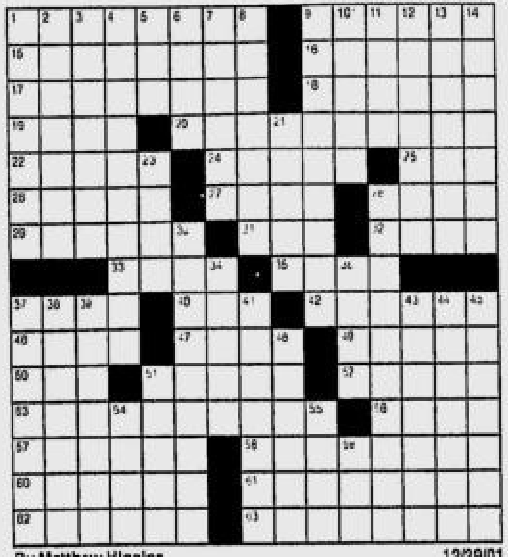
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You will have some wild ideas today. If you follow through with your plans, you stand to make financial gains. Opportunities to change your professional future are also present.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): You will be sensitive, emotional and eager to please today. Romance will develop if you get involved in worthwhile causes. Use your genuine warmth and compassion to win hearts.

Birthday Baby: You are always looking for adventure. You are attracted to fun entertainment and anything that may be a little unusual. You are very in tune with the thoughts and feelings of others and will always have lots of friends.

DAILY CROSSWORD

IMSPuzzles@aol.com



By Matthew Higgins
Concord, NH

12/29/01

ACROSS
1 Brought under control
9 Obliquely
15 Privately with the judge
16 Goal maker
17 Sculpted figures
18 To some extent
19 Safe bet
20 State of unwholesome gloom
22 Old-womanish
24 Laughs boisterously
25 Witticism
26 Look of contempt
27 Slugger Sammy
28 Break bread
29 Dental deposit
31 NYC opera house
32 Letters for a Cold War foe
33 On the briny
35 Calendar 9
37 Outer banana
40 Clerical vestment
42 Haggle
46 Canter leisurely
47 Female rabbits
49 Onion-flavored seasoning
50 Clay, once
51 Caste member
52 Airs
53 Insect repellent
56 Sleuth Wolfe
57 Receiving callers
58 Pretender
60 Egypt's capital, once
61 Diego Rivera, e.g.
62 Chemical compounds
63 Shields

DOWN
1 Select unsuitable actors
2 Insect's appendage
3 More frightening
4 Snitch
5 Flightless bird of Australia
6 Twenty quires
7 Fielder's flubs
8 Barracks' leisure space
9 Inhaled
10 Lots and lots
11 Bereft
12 Apollo's twin sister
13 Willie and Ricky
14 Rendezvous participant
21 Military installations
23 Significant periods
26 Severe, candid critic
30 Set stale
34 Isolated
36 Ancient inhabitant of northern Britain
37 Appease
38 Ancient stone tools
39 Abusive phrase
41 Nighttime reading aid
43 Type of energy
44 Hillary's conquest
45 Vacation spots
48 Gunpowder ingredient
51 Greek epic poet
54 Dressing gown
55 Bushy '60s hairstyle
59 Put on the feed bag

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

F	I	A	T	■	S	A	N	D	■	D	A	I	R	Y
I	N	G	E	■	E	T	U	I	■	E	E	R	I	E
N	U	N	S	■	P	H	I	S	■	A	R	O	M	A
D	R	E	S	S	T	O	T	H	E	N	I	N	E	S
S	E	W	■	H	E	M	■	■	G	E	E	■	■	■
■	■	■	C	A	T	E	R	E	R	■	S	N	A	P
A	T	T	A	R	■	■	E	W	E	R	■	E	R	A
C	H	A	M	P	A	G	N	E	T	O	A	S	T	S
D	A	R	■	S	U	R	A	■	■	B	I	T	E	S
C	R	O	C	■	R	E	L	A	T	E	D	■	■	■
■	■	■	E	L	I	■	■	T	O	R	■	D	E	S
T	O	O	M	U	C	H	F	O	O	T	B	A	L	L
E	L	D	E	R	■	A	U	N	T	■	A	C	T	I
A	L	O	N	E	■	R	E	A	L	■	S	H	O	P
M	A	R	T	S	■	E	L	L	E	■	H	A	N	S

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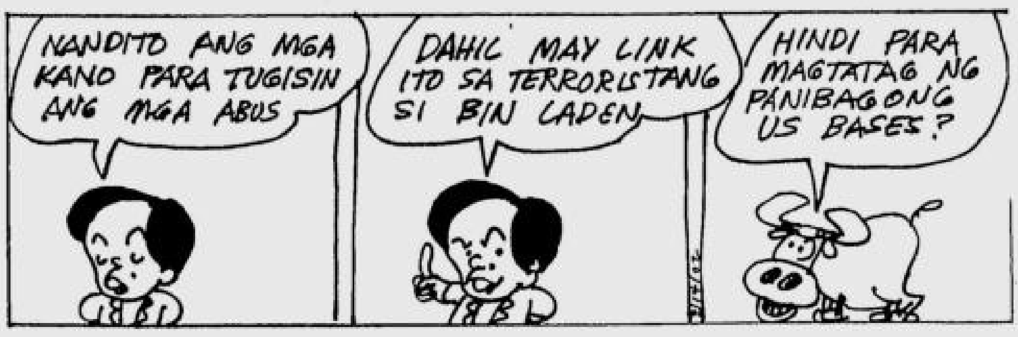
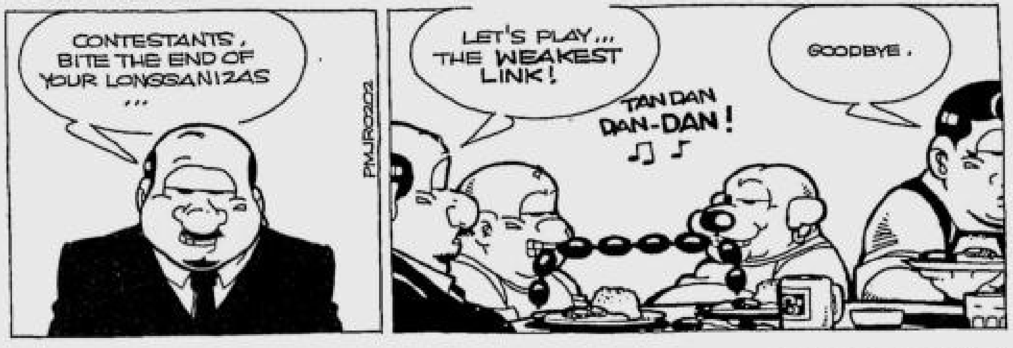
12/29/01

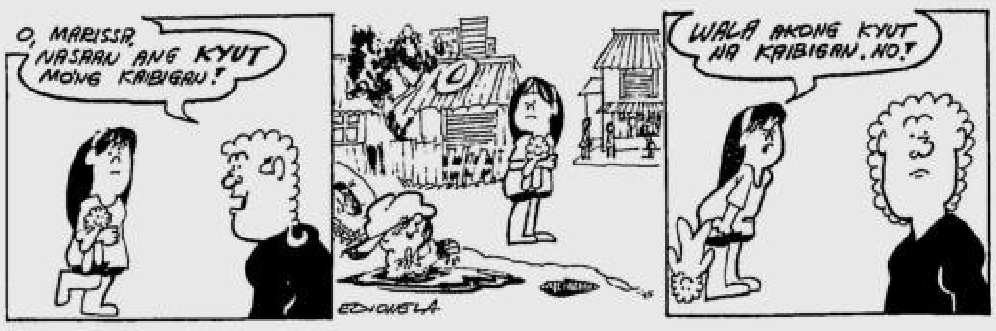
A. LIPIN BY JESS ABRERA


NANDITO ANG MGA KANO PARA TUGISIN ANG MGA ABUS
DAHIL MAY LINK ITO SA TERRORISTANG SI BIN LADEN
HINDI PARA MAGTATAG NG PANIBAGONG US BASES?

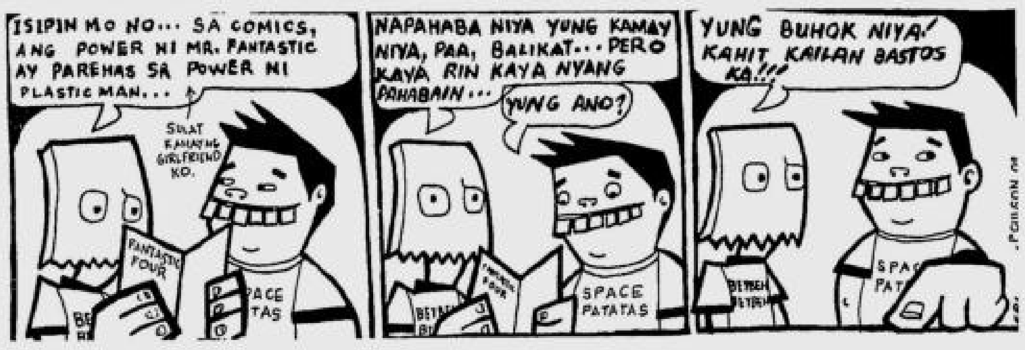
PUGAD BABOY BY P.M. JUNIOR


CONTESTANTS, BITE THE END OF YOUR LONGGANIZAS ...
PMJR02202
LET'S PLAY... THE WEAKEST LINK!
TAN DAN DAN-DAN!
GOODBYE.

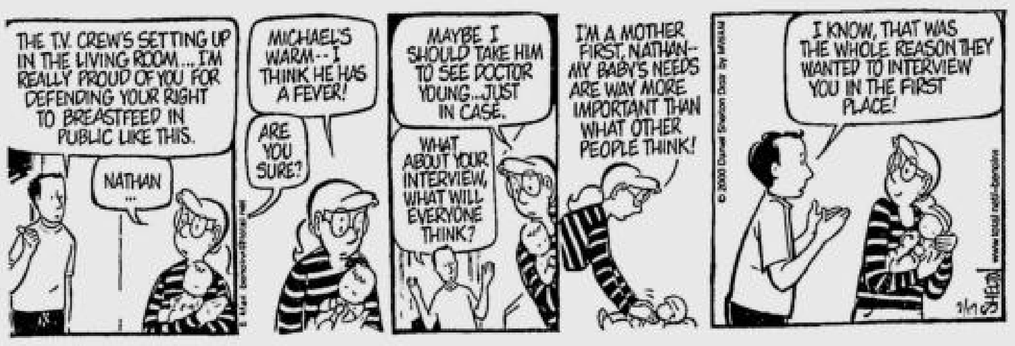
SIMO BY EDGAR DIONELA


O, MARISSA, NASAAN ANG KYUT MONG KAIBIGAN?
WALA AKONG KYUT NA KAIBIGAN, NO?
EDIONELA

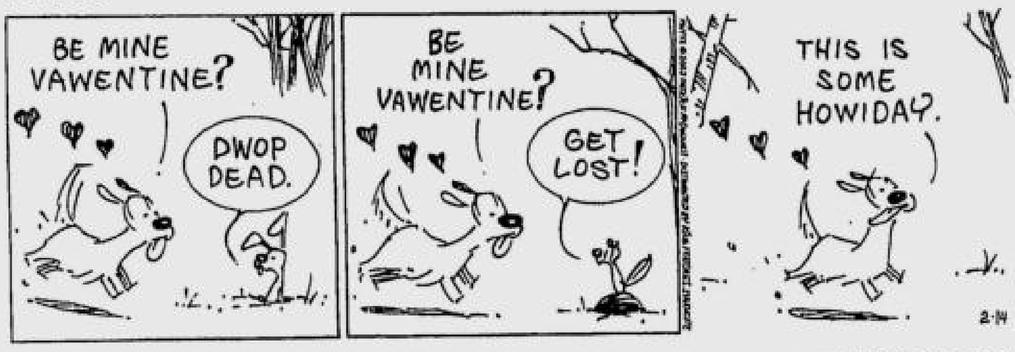
GARAPATA BLOOD BY JOHN PAUL CUISON


ISIPIN MO NO... SA COMICS, ANG POWER NI MR. FANTASTIC AY PAREHAS SA POWER NI PLASTIC MAN...
SULAT KAMAYNG GIRLFRIEND KO.
FANTASTIC FOUR
SPACE PATATAS
NAPAHABA NIYA YUNG KAMAY NIYA, PAA, BALIKAT... PERO KAYA RIN KAYA NYANG PAHABAIN...
YUNG ANO?
YUNG BUHOK NIYA! KAHIT KAILAN BASTOS KA!!!

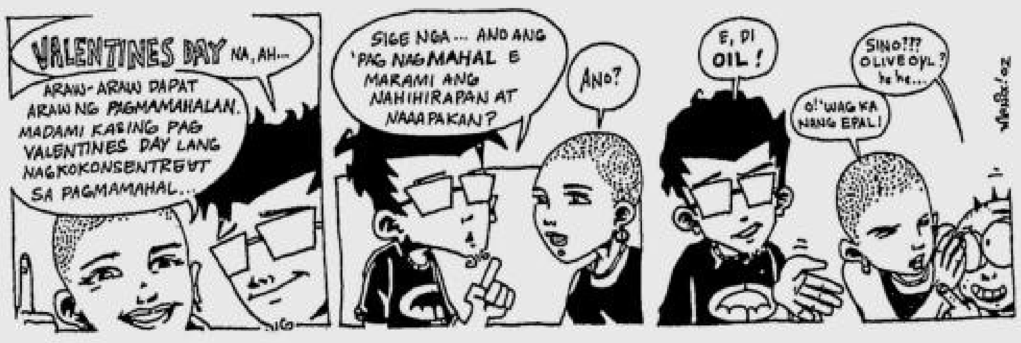
BEN BY DANIEL SHELTON


THE T.V. CREW'S SETTING UP IN THE LIVING ROOM... I'M REALLY PROUD OF YOU FOR DEFENDING YOUR RIGHT TO BREASTFEED IN PUBLIC LIKE THIS.
NATHAN ...
MICHAEL'S WARM-- I THINK HE HAS A FEVER!
ARE YOU SURE?
MAYBE I SHOULD TAKE HIM TO SEE DOCTOR YOUNG...JUST IN CASE.
WHAT ABOUT YOUR INTERVIEW, WHAT WILL EVERYONE THINK?
I'M A MOTHER FIRST, NATHAN-- MY BABY'S NEEDS ARE WAY MORE IMPORTANT THAN WHAT OTHER PEOPLE THINK!
I KNOW, THAT WAS THE WHOLE REASON THEY WANTED TO INTERVIEW YOU IN THE FIRST PLACE!

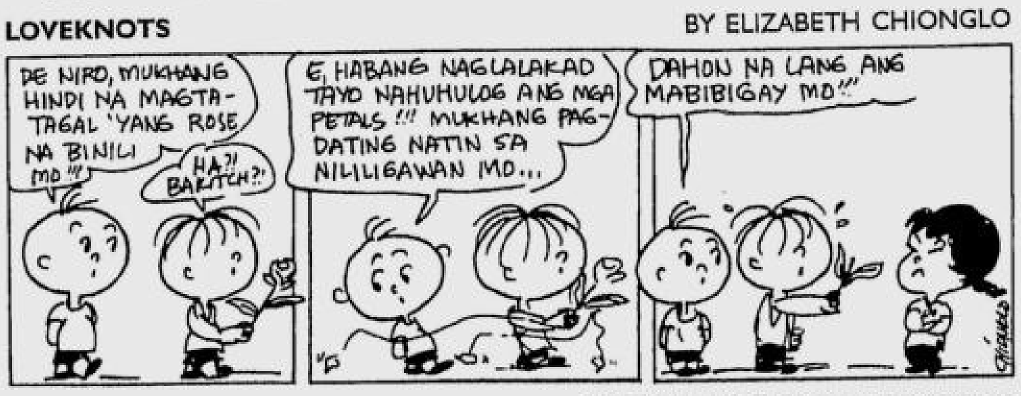
MUTTS BY PATRICK McDONNELL


BE MINE VAWENTINE?
DWOP DEAD.
BE MINE VAWENTINE?
GET LOST!
THIS IS SOME HOWIDAY.
2-14

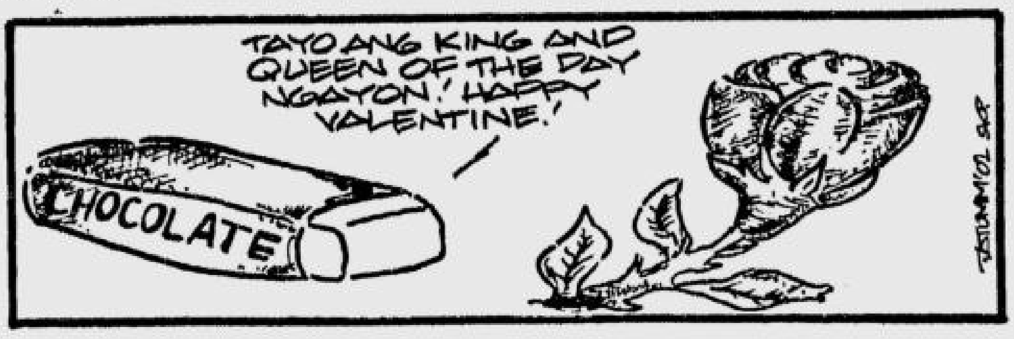
KIKO MACHINE BY MANIX ABRERA


VALENTINES DAY NA, AH...
ARAW-ARAW DAPAT ARAW NG PAGMAMAHALAN. MADAMI KASING PAG VALENTINES DAY LANG NAGKOKONSENTREYT SA PAGMAMAHAL...
SIGE NGA... ANO ANG 'PAG NAGMAHAL E MARAMI ANG NAHIHIRAPAN AT NAAAPAKAN?
ANO?
E, DI OIL!
SINO?!? OLIVE OYL? he he...
O! 'WAG KA NANG EPAL!

LOVEKNOTS BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


DE NIRO, MUKHANG HINDI NA MAGTATAGAL 'YANG ROSE NA BINILI MO!!!
HA?! BAKITCH?!
E, HABANG NAGLALAKAD TAYO NAHUHULOG ANG MGA PETALS!!! MUKHANG PAGDATING NATIN SA NILILIGAWAN MO...
DAHON NA LANG ANG MABIBIGAY MO!!!

TULDOK BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


TAYO ANG KING AND QUEEN OF THE DAY NGAYON! HAPPY VALENTINE!
CHOCOLATE

KFC's
CHUCKIE MEAL!
Betty Boop
Lah WHAT I'VE GOT!
KFC
CHUCKIE MEAL
Betty Boop

KFC bucket offering and collectible

KENTUCKY'S Fried Chicken is offering its popular Bucket Meal at a discounted price of P459, a P72 savings from its original price of P531. Just upsize your Bucket Meal and you get four large Pepsi plus a free Tug-Along Tumbler or Pokémon Plush Toy.

KFC's Bucket Meal consists of eight pieces of chicken cooked to tender, juicy perfection, four rice servings, four regular mashed potatoes, four regular Pepsi and six pieces of assorted regular donuts from Mister Donut. Customers may request a Mix and Match chicken (a combination of original recipe and hot and crispy) and side dishes such as coleslaw salad, corn and carrots. Offer good until Feb. 28.

Meanwhile, KFC is giving Betty Boop fans a chance to hug, cuddle and embrace the sweetest and cutest female cartoon character in the world this love season.

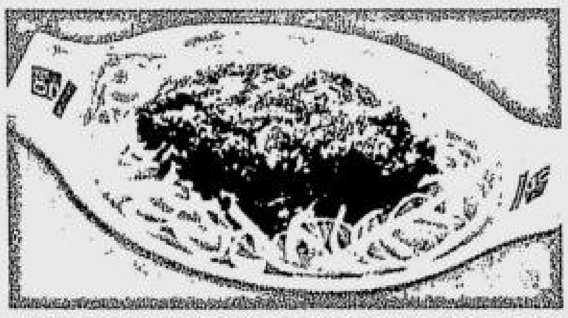
Every purchase of KFC's Chuckie Meal—a choice of BBQ Chicken Burger, Spaghetti and Chicken Meals—comes with one Betty Boop Snuggables, a collection of huggable Betty Boop pillows (square, heart and round). Offer good until Feb. 28.

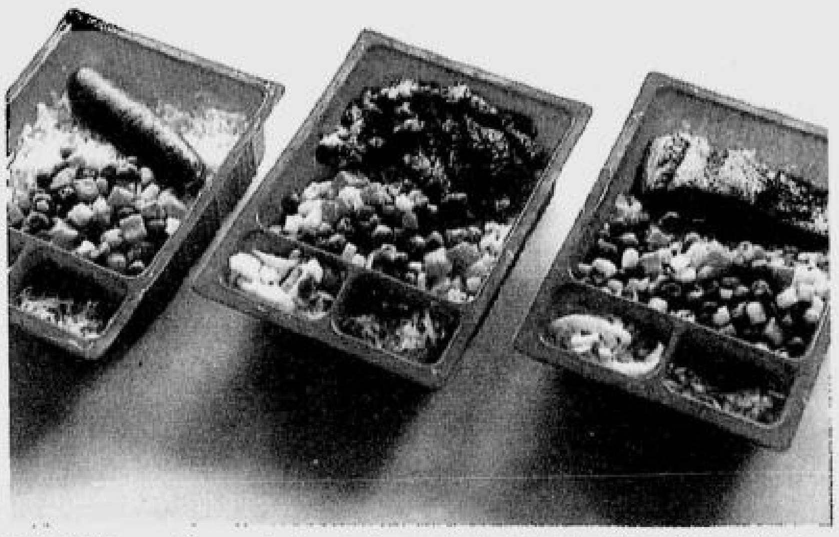
Save
P72.0
KFC

Ready for Pasta Beef Bolognese?

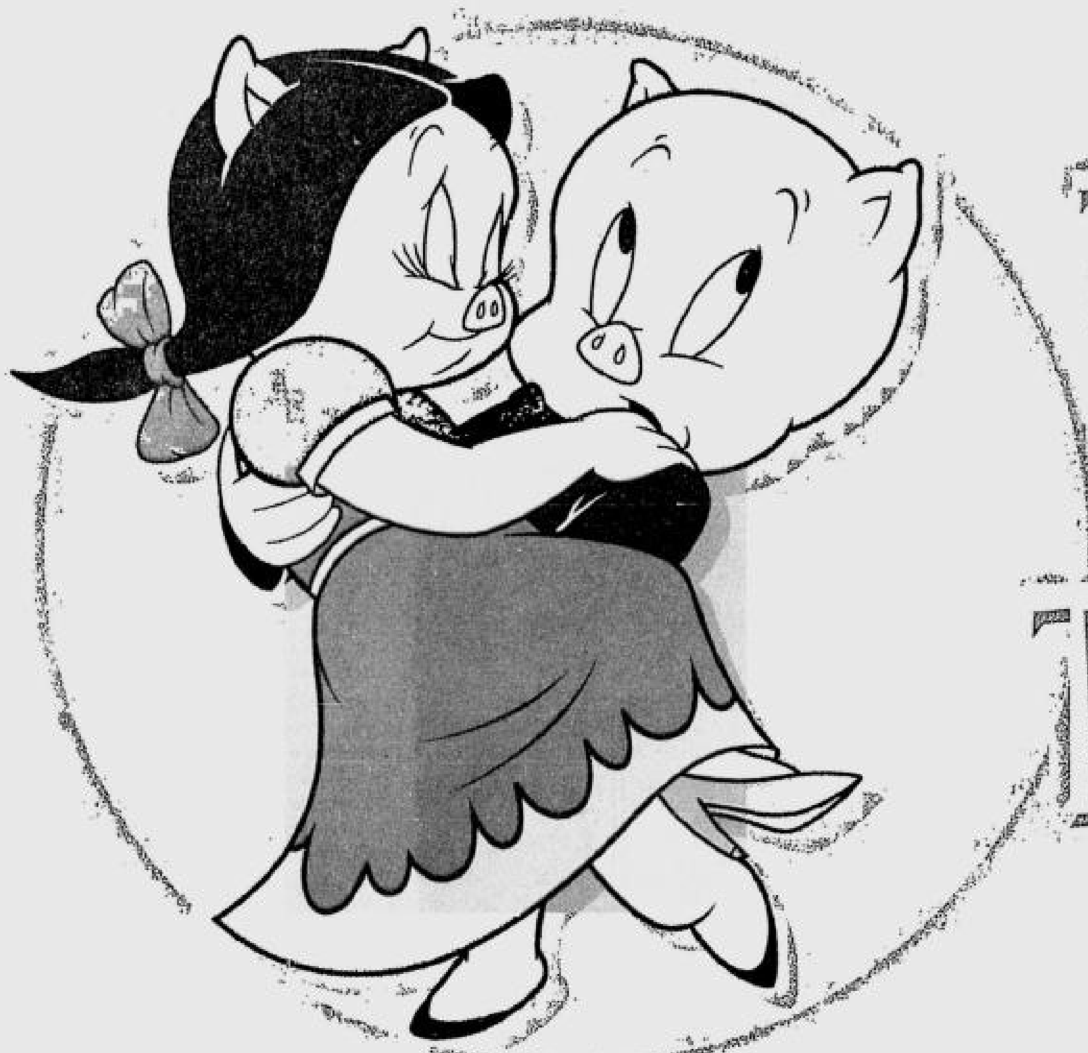
THE LATEST addition to the Greenwich pasta line is Pasta Beef Bolognese, premium linguine noodles with 100 percent pure beef sauce generously laced with mushrooms, green pepper and tomato chunks, and blended with spices.

Pasta Beef Bolognese is a great meal to enjoy with Greenwich's own Pizza or Crispy Fried Chicken.





7-ELEVEN now offers ready-to-eat rice meals at selected outlets. Choose from a wide variety of Pinoy favorites such as Longanisa Hamonado, Pinoy Beefsteak, Daing na Bangus, Pork Barbecue, Corned Beef, Beef Tapa and Tocino. All rice meals come with fried egg strips, buttered vegetables and *atchara*. Just take your pick, heat up in your oven toaster and you're ready to go.



Too nervous? Say it with a Text Card!

NOW ONLY ₱15.00!*

*For both Plan and Prepaid Plus from Feb.11, 2002 - March 31, 2002 only

When you're feeling less than bold, count on these lovable Looney Tunes Text Cards to do the talking for you. They're fun, hip and so easy to download. Greet everyone you love a H-h-happy V-v-valentines now with Globe Handyphone Text Cards. Looney Tunes Text Cards is in the Fun & Games category of myGlobe. With so many other services in myGlobe, all neatly organized for access, there's just no limit to what you can do.

BUGS5
BUGS12
PEPE01
KISS ME
PEPE03
PEPE04
mon cherie xxx
PEPE05
PEPE07
ILOVE U!
PEPE08
PEPE09
PEPE10
PEPE11
ah, l'amour
PEPE12
PEPE13
PEPE14
PEPE15
PEPE16
LOVE STRUCK
PEPE17
ma cherie...
PEPE18
Aah, love is sweet, ya?
PEPE19
Love Me You Fool
PEPE20
mon Cherie
PEPE21
eet ees love, ees eet not?
PEPE22
My Heart is Yours
PEPE23
You are my WORLD!
PEPE24
I ♥ U
PORKY1
PUSSYFO3
TWEETY09
TWEETY10
I L♥VE YOU
TWEETY11
TWEETY7

Text Cards service currently works on the following models:
Nokia: 3210, 3310, 6210, 8210, 8250, 8310, 8850
Enhanced Screen saver function: Nokia 3310 and 3330

Looney Tunes, characters, names and all related indicia are trademarks of and ©Warner Bros.
(s02)

To forward to your loved one:

1. Type in TC KEYWORD Mobile Number
Example: TC PORKY1 0917XXXXXXX

2. Send to 2301 and wait for Text Card.

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0269. Series of 2002.

wsa wireless services asia

LOONEY TUNES

myGlobe mobile e-services
NO LIMITS

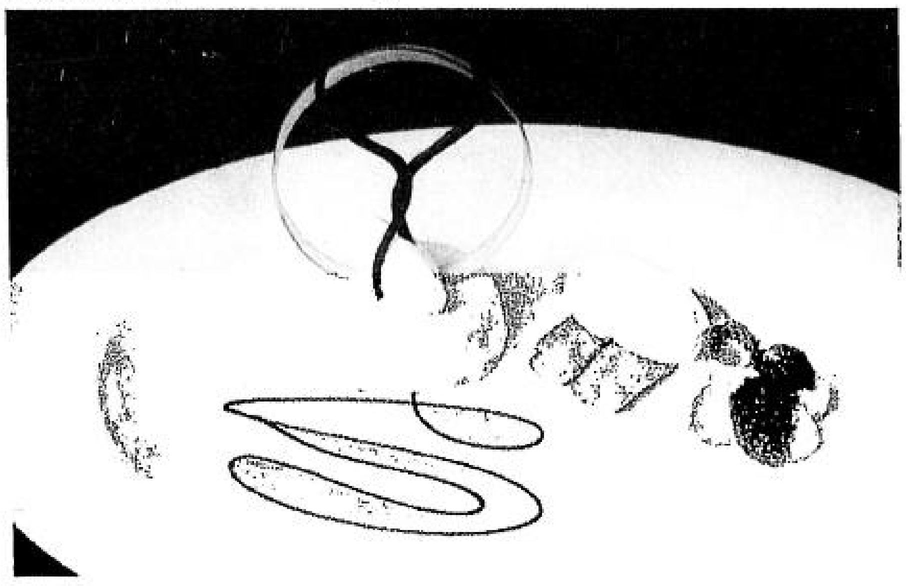
Keep a bunch.
You might get lucky.

frenzy
TRUST

Get into it.

BLACK BOX CULINARY CHALLENGE
MANILA - JANU & 28, 2002
MLA Black Box Culinary Challenge Manila

EXECUTIVE sous chef Humphrey Navarro raises the trophy won by Mandarin Oriental while colleagues (from left) Gary Altabano, Kenneth Tremor and Ariel Fernandez hold a giant check indicating their cash prize. Looking on are Australian Ambassador John Buckley (extreme left) and Timony Kelf (extreme right), Meat and Livestock Australia's regional manager for South Asia.



THE DESSERT course in Mandarin Oriental, Manila's winning menu: Lactos deep blue cheese panna cotta with cream cheese mango fritters and cream cheese ice cream

Mandarin dominates culinary contest

MANDARIN Oriental Manila got the gold medal at the Manila Black Box Culinary Challenge by the Meat and Livestock Australia (MLA).

Headed by team coach Humphrey Navarro, the hotel's executive sous chef, the trio of young chefs was composed of Ariel Fernandez and Kenneth Tremor, both Commis II at the hotel's Tivoli restaurant, and Garry Altabano, Commis III at the Pastry kitchen. The team received a cash prize and will represent the Philippines at the regional finals in Kyoto, Japan next month.

This is the latest culinary award won by Mandarin Oriental, a five-time overall champion of the "Chefs on Parade" (the annual culinary Olympics of the Hotel and Restaurant Association of the Phils.), and an award-winning hotel renowned for the quality cuisine served in its restaurants and banquets.

An international panel of established culinary professionals judged the various entries of the eight participating teams from hotels and restaurants based on creativity, taste, consistency and presentation.

Placing second was the Peninsula Manila followed by Le Soufflé.

The Black Box competition is organized by the MLA, a producer-owned organization that carries out marketing and research for the Australian red meat industry. Timothy Kelf, regional manager for South Asia of MLA, and Alan Palmer, on-ground organizer of the MLA Black Box Culinary Challenge 2000-2002, presented the awards with special guest, Australian Ambassador John Buckley.

The contest is the only one of its kind for young chefs below 30 years old. Teams consisting of three chefs and their team leader used their artistry in creating recipes for a three-course menu, using ingredients that are only revealed 24 hours before the competition. The teams each served dinner for the guests at the competition night. Dinner guests included dignitaries, hoteliers, restaurateurs and food critics and enthusiasts.

The winning team's Black Box menu consisted of appetizer—Trilogy of Salmon: salmon and lactose red square cheese cake on pineapple Beurre blanc, home-smoked elderberry glazed salmon, salmon tartar on Kalamata olive aioli with cos and iceberg lettuce slow-tossed in bush tomato chutney vinaigrette; main course—slow-roast Australian lamb neck and wild lime pickle-pineapple braised lamb shoulder served with caramelized onion, deep blue cheese torte satin on minted lentils and sauce piquant; dessert—Lactos deep blue cheese panna cotta with cream cheese, mango fritter and cream cheese ice cream.

A variety of Australian produce including lamb necks and lamb square cut shoulder were used as mystery ingredients. Other ingredients were provided by the Australian Horticultural Corp., Tuckerbag Inc. (fruit and vegetables), Lactos (cheese), Penfolds (wines), Hela Food (spices and sauces), Prestige Foods Int'l. (frozen stocks) and Snorre Food (seafood).

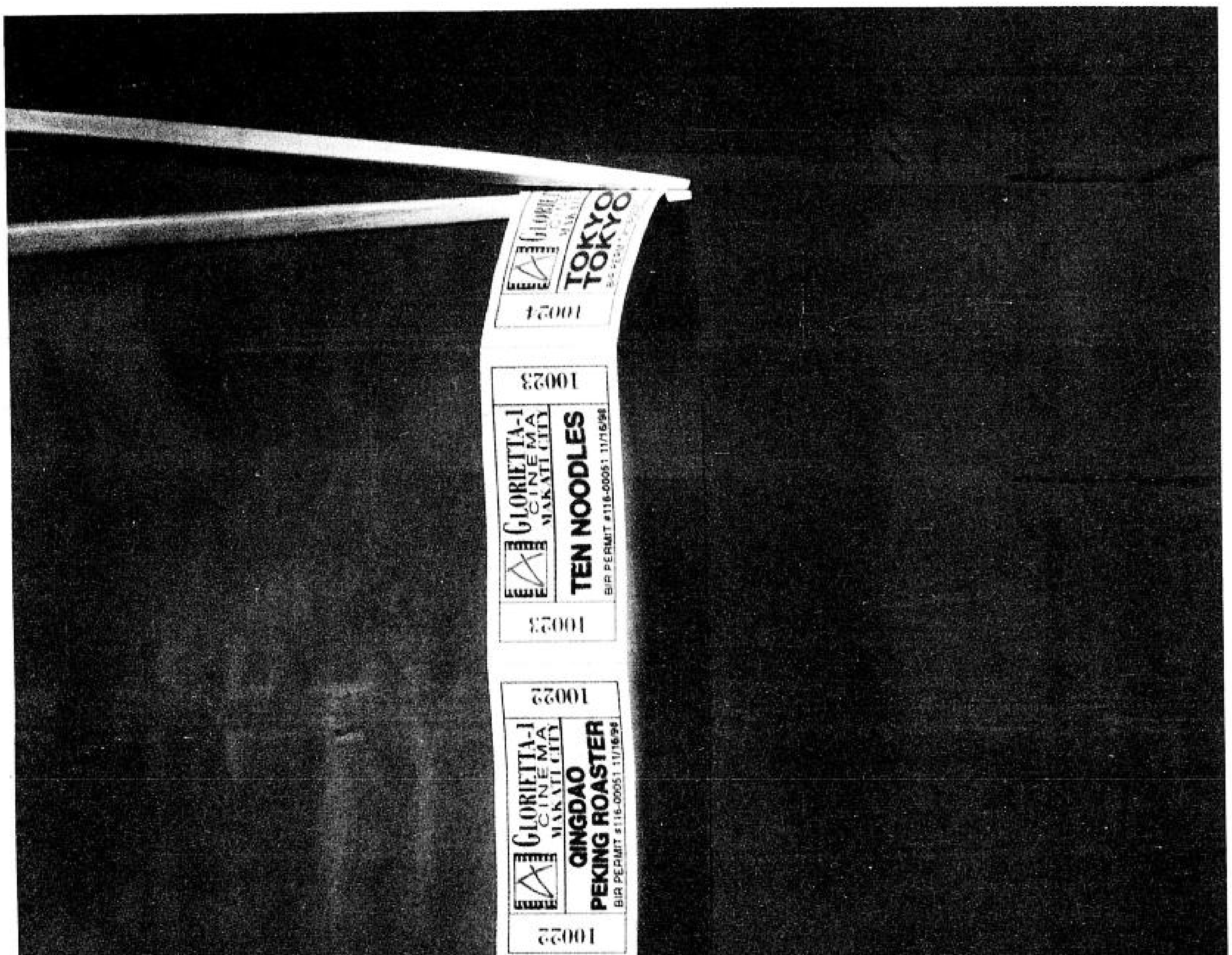
Know your compatibility

BEFORE you even attempt to send those chocolates, flowers or greeting cards this Valentine's Day or decide to walk the aisle or live in, lovers better know their compatibilities first before taking the plunge to avoid unnecessary hassles later.

And considering the high cost of living and the prohibitive expenses involved in sending those chocolates, flowers or jewels and luxuries or going to those expensive Valentine shows or spending weekends together, especially for the first time, it pays to know if you and your "special someone" are in tune with each other.

This Valentine, First Consultants and Advisors, the country's only biorhythm managers, is offering special promo packages to lovers, soul mates and plain friends that determine compatibilities physically, emotionally and intellectually. Finally, you'll know if you and your lover or prospect will get into each other's nerves or you and your future boss or you and your future manager or CEO will coexist harmoniously and profitably.

Biorhythms will not only provide compatibilities, but also opportunities to better your present and future activities in courtship, marriage, business, travel, sales, marketing, negotiations, sports or even plain household chores and, in the process, avoid accidents and even death, and help ensure success during your low, high, critical, positive and negative days. Call telefax 931-7317.


GLORIETTA-1 CINEMA MAKATI CITY
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Get free movie tickets when you dine in our new Glorietta 1 restaurants or when you watch in our newly-renovated, all-digital G1 cinemas.
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AYALA CENTER
GLORIETTA • GREENBELT

PROMO MECHANICS:
1. WATCH! Every movie you see at Glorietta1 entitles you to one (1) stamp.
2. EAT! Each P100 meal at any of the new Glorietta1 restaurants (Cafe Cornucopia, Mangan, Qing Dao Peking Roaster, Ten Noodles, Tokyo Tokyo) also gives you one (1) stamp.
3. COLLECT! A combination of any 3 stamps gives you a Glorietta 1 movie ticket for free!
Present your receipts at the Glorietta 1 cinema booth located at the ground floor to claim your free ticket.

See posters and leaflets for details.
Promo Period is from Feb 7 - March 17, 2002 only.
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. [illegible] Series of 2002

LIFESTYLE
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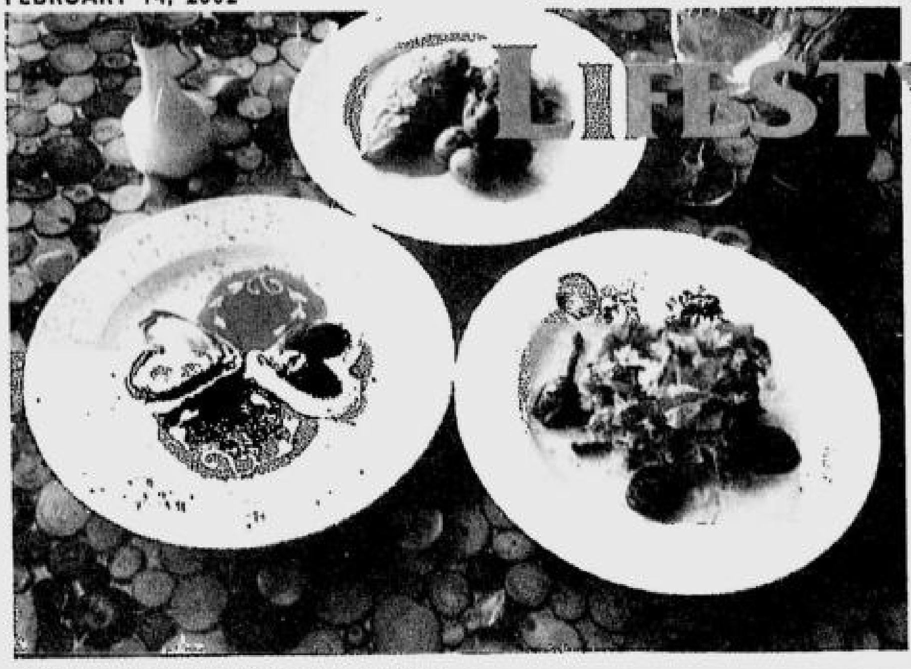
Dunkin' Darling Donuts
₱29.50
DUNKIN' DONUTS
Pasalubong ng Bayan
Feb. 1 to 18, 2002.

Sweetheart deals



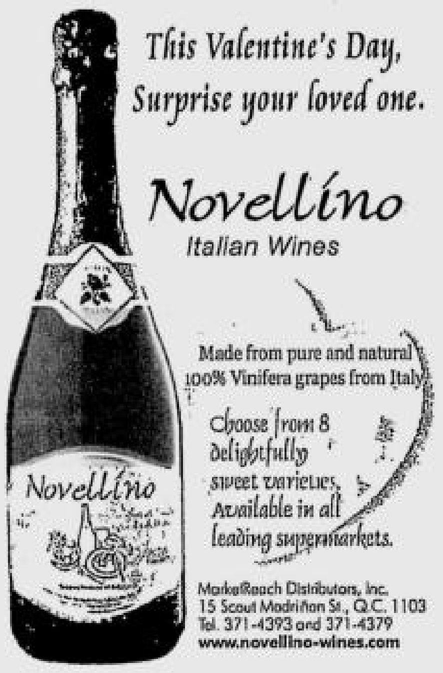
MAKE the moment special at Le Soufflé at Camp John Hay where you can enjoy Salad Panache with Shiitake Mushrooms Creamy Balsamic Dressing, Pan-fried Chicken Breast in whiskey cream sauce with almonds and marble potatoes and the Heart-shaped Meringues filled with white and dark chocolate mousse.

IT'S still the same story. Every year on Valentine's Day, couples get dressed and go out to dinner and paint the already red town red. Some restaurants have set menus for couples who abhor waiting; others prepare a buffet table laden with hearty choices for pairs who have a passion for food but want a quick fix. For those who are so in love they don't mind lingering around the dinner table, holding hands, drinking wine, exchanging heart hymns, nothing beats the à la carte menu. For in the hands of a seasoned chef, a meal can become exciting foreplay. What's love got to do with food? If you have to ask, go read Laura Esquivel's "Like Water for Chocolate." Here's another quick guide to where you can take your sweetheart today. Satisfaction guaranteed? That depends on what you're having for a nightcap.

BLUE BACON AND GREEN EGGS makes your Valentine exciting but convenient with a special set menu that includes Consomme with Bacon and Pecorino Cheese Dumplings Soup, Roasted US Culver Duckling with Shiitake in Filo Pastry with Duck Gravy Sauce served with Risoni with Cream Cheese and Fresh Asparagus for the main course and Chocolate Melting Cake with Strawberry in White Chocolate for dessert. You can avail of this special set menu for the whole month. Or you can start off the evening with Consomme with Bacon and Pecorino Dumplings Soup, followed by The Emperor's Salad, fresh greens with Kani and Nori. For the main

SWEETHEART/ p.E4

WEIGH LESS CENTER
MENDEZ MEDICAL GROUP
Happy Valentine's


This Valentine's Day,
Surprise your loved one.
Novellino
Italian Wines
Made from pure and natural 100% Vinifera grapes from Italy
Choose from 8 delightfully sweet varieties,
Available in all leading supermarkets.
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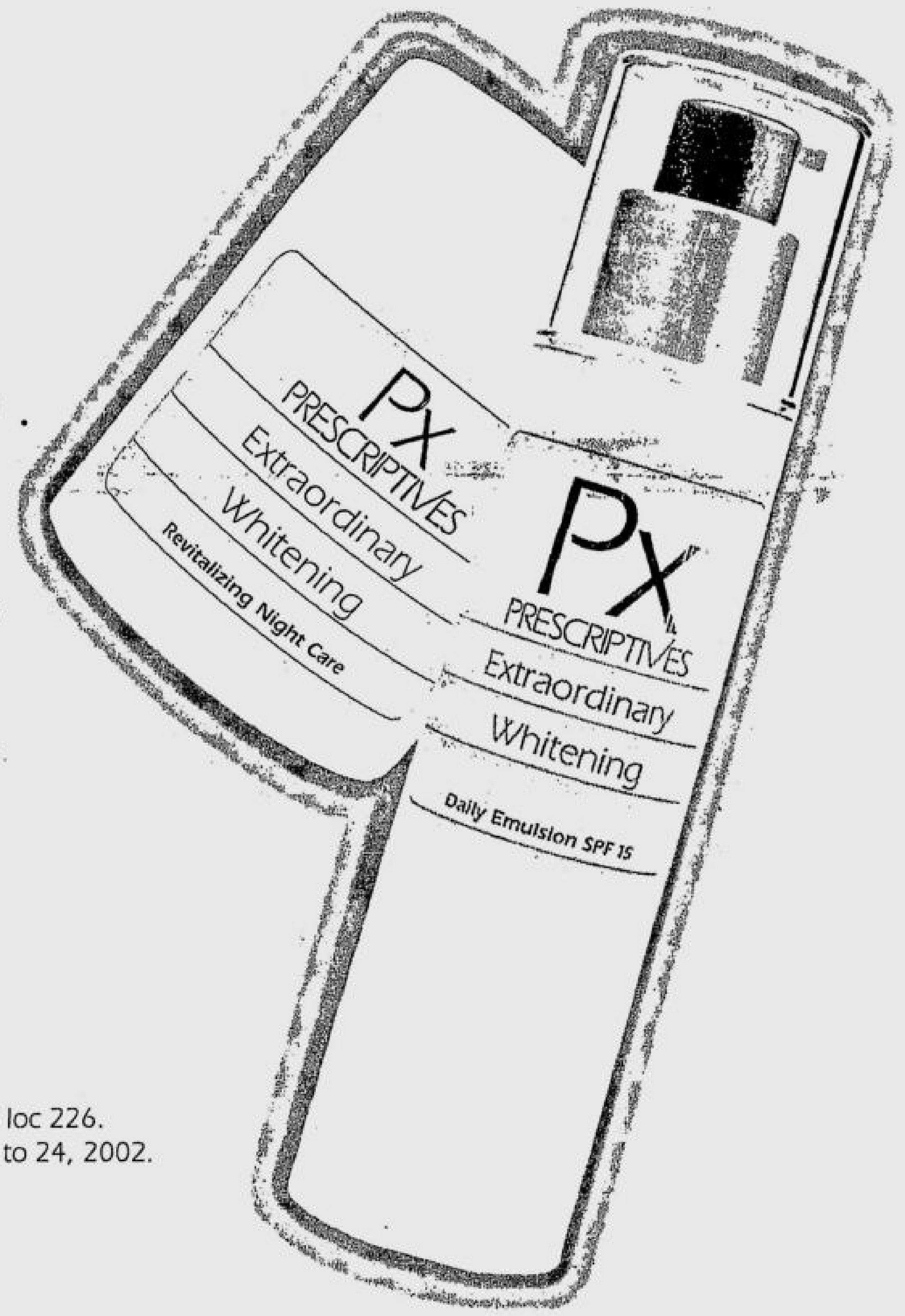
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Roses, balloons, soaps and other treats for the one you love

Have a complete Valentine meal for two for only P500 and get a P250 RACKS Gift Certificate for FREE!

Two to date for a 50% rebate at RACKS ©™

From February 13-28, **RACKS** celebrates the Valentine season with a choice of four sumptuous meals. Order any 2 meals for P500 (plus 10% service charge) and get a **50% rebate** thru a **RACKS** Gift Certificate worth P250 for **FREE** (which both of you can use on your next **RACKS** visit).
Choose from our 4 Valentine meal specials:
- Hickory-Smoked Premium Boneless Ribs and Baby Cuttlefish in Cream Sauce
- Country-Style Fried Chicken, Breaded Fish Fillet in Tartar Sauce and Fettuccine with White Sauce
- Grilled Hickory-Smoked Chicken and Porkloin in Honey-Mustard Sauce
- Pan-Fried Tuna and Pork Tenderloin Tips Salpicao

All Valentine meal specials include a choice of rice or foccacia bread, a choice of iced tea or softdrink and a slice of chocolate cake.

-For dine-in only
-No take-outs or delivery
-Not applicable with other discounts, functions, parties and complimentary gift certificates
-P250 Gift Certificates should be used on your next visit to RACKS
-P250 Gift Certificates is not applicable for Valentine meal specials or other promo specials of RACKS.

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PER DTI-NCR PERMIT # 0506 SERIES OF 2002

CAFÉ ALL DAY treats couples who order a minimum of P500 to five miniature heart-shaped Cafe Belgian Waffles topped with vanilla ice cream and Sweet Strawberries Compote. This one-day promo is valid for dine-in only and cannot be availed with any ongoing Cafe All Day promo. Cafe All Day is at the 2/F Tequila Joe's, El Pueblo, Ortigas, Pasig City.

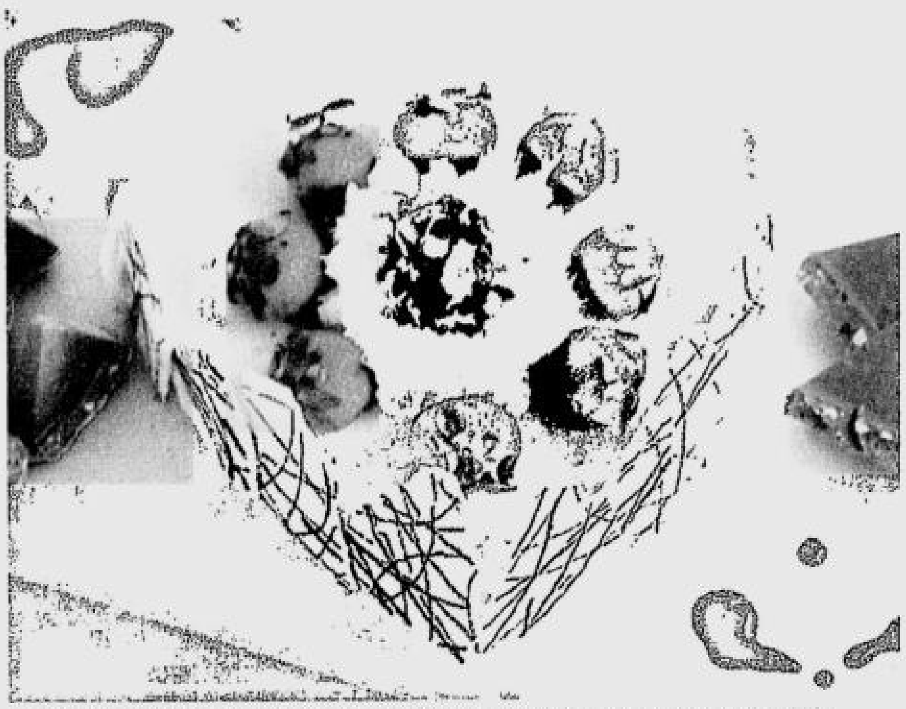
CINNABON sweetens your Valentine's Day. Visit any outlet today and get either a 4-pc, 6-pc, 9-pc or 15-pc Express Pack, and get one red rose for every pack, courtesy of The World Famous Cinnamon Rolls and Palamuti, Atbp. Cinnabon outlets are located at the Power Plant Mall in Rockwell, SM Megamall, Robinsons Place Manila, Robinsons Galleria, Podium Mall in Ortigas, Alabang Town Center, Shell Travel Plaza-North Luzon, Shell Travel Plaza-South Luzon and Shell-Magallanes.

CALIFORNIA PIZZA KITCHEN will be giving out free scented soaps to lady diners as part of the restaurant's special Valentine promo. California Pizza Kitchen is at the Glorietta, Ayala Center, Makati City; Alabang Town Center; and Shangri-la Mall, Edsa.

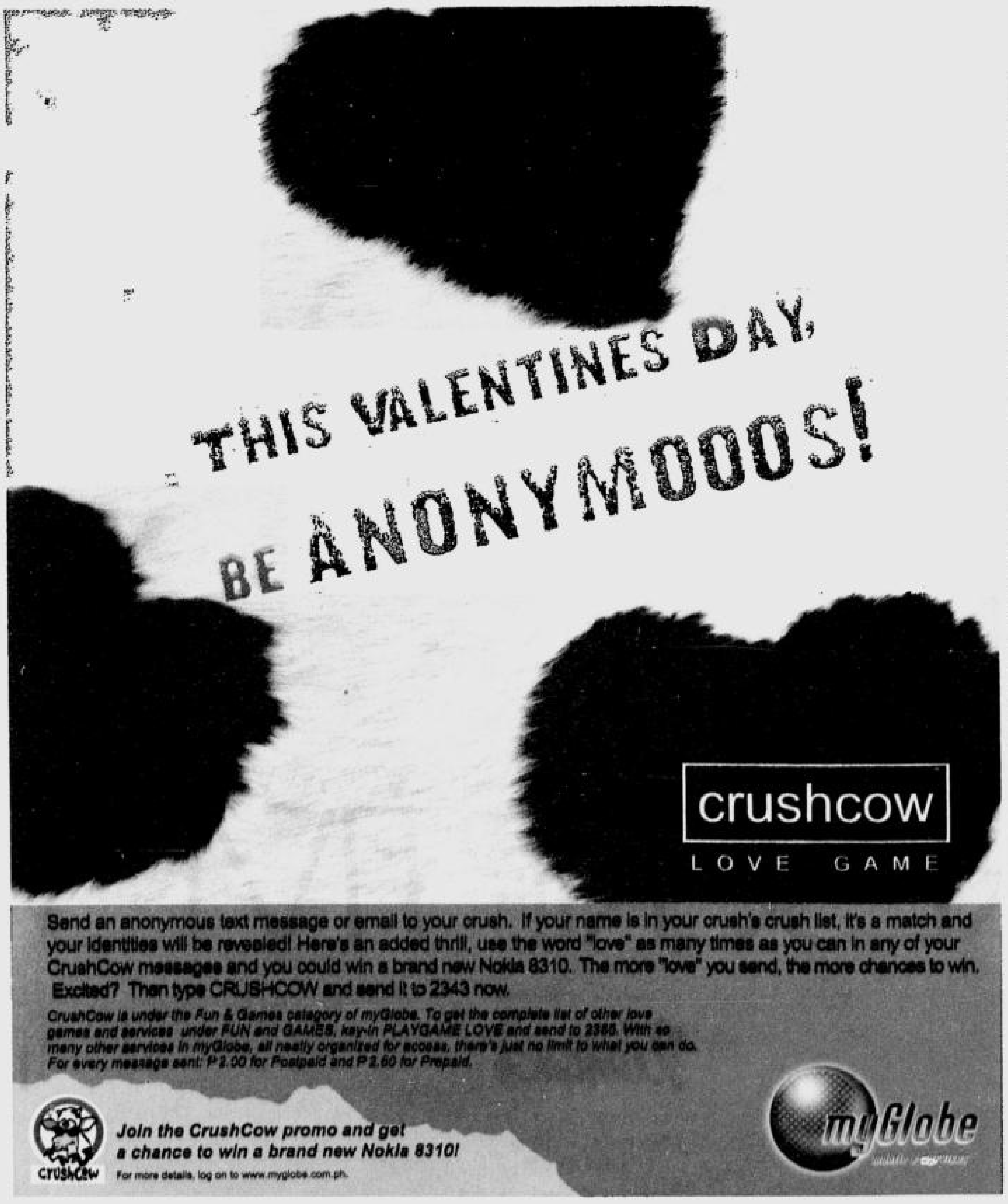
BUDDIES will be giving away free red heart-shaped balloons to ladies who'll dine in its outlets today. Buddies is at the Millennium Place, Meralco Avenue and Alabang Town Center.

FOODPARK at the Enterprise (located at corner Ayala and Paseo de Roxas Avenues, Makati City) offers an offbeat celebration with Cupids and love songs. Two Cupids in full costume will be going around Foodpark during lunch and dinner to encourage customers to send love messages to their loved ones or people they secretly admire. Foodpark will provide a list of songs from which customers may choose. The band performing that night will play the requested songs. To make the evening more special, the three most unusual dedications will win gift certificates from Discovery Suites. Customers can write their dedications on small cards, which will be placed on top of each table.

MARKETPLACE at Times Plaza, located at Taft corner UN Avenues, Manila, helped customers find the perfect date for Valentine's Day with the "Step-No! Step-Yes! Dating Game." For a minimum purchase of P100, customers were entitled to a coupon and contestants of the game were drawn. The dating game is set tonight at 6:30 at the Marketplace. The game's official searchee is a DJ from a leading radio station. The winners will have dinner tonight at the Marketplace.



HERITAGE Hotel Manila seduces with a sumptuous strawberry mousse cake. This specially prepared heart-shaped Valentine concoction is crowned with Swiss chocolate tidbits and white chocolate. Available at the Cake Shop for P600+ for a whole cake and P95+ per slice.



Send an anonymous text message or email to your crush. If your name is in your crush's crush list, it's a match and your identities will be revealed! Here's an added thrill, use the word "love" as many times as you can in any of your CrushCow messages and you could win a brand new Nokia 8310. The more "love" you send, the more chances to win. Excited? Then type CRUSHCOW and send it to 2343 now.

CrushCow is under the Fun & Games category of myGlobe. To get the complete list of other love games and services under FUN and GAMES, key-in PLAYGAME LOVE and send to 2355. With so many other services in myGlobe, all neatly organized for access, there's just no limit to what you can do. For every message sent: P2.00 for Postpaid and P2.50 for Prepaid.

Join the CrushCow promo and get a chance to win a brand new Nokia 8310!

For more details, log on to www.myglobe.com.ph.

GIORGIO Matera, owner of Piadina Centrale

Grand central station for Italian delights

WHEN Giorgio and Tetta Matera opened La Piadina as a fast-food stall at the 4/L of Glorietta, Makati, in 1988, it was such an instant hit that another branch at Robinsons Galleria was put up. This year, Piadina Centrale has opened its doors at the Mega Strip A in SM Megamall.

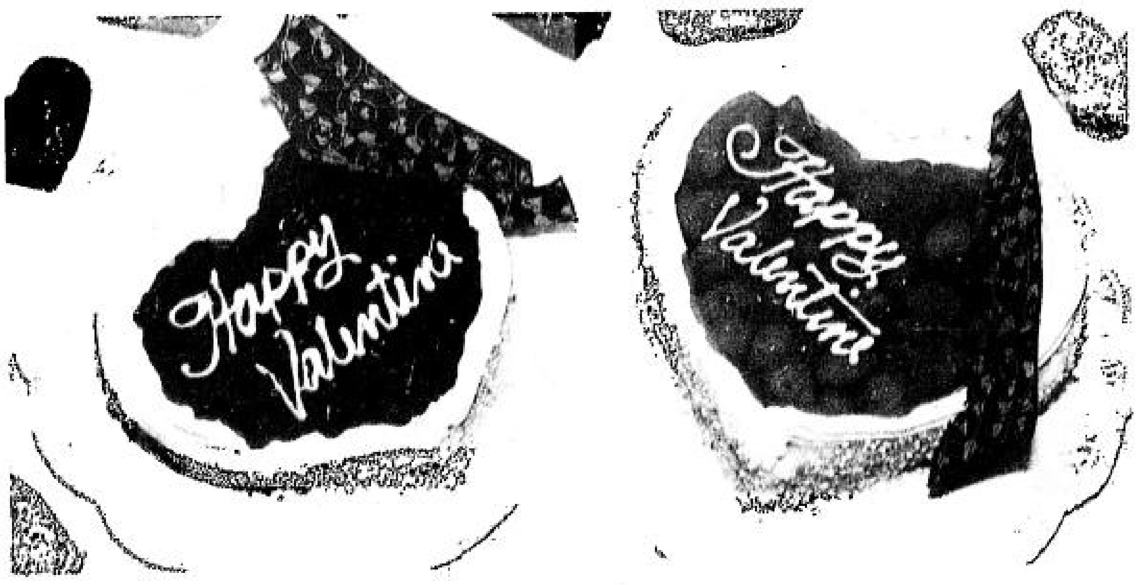
The "grand central" of all La Piadina branches, the restaurant now carries an array of all the best dishes that La Piadina has been known for, like its Piadina Classico sandwiches, with a choice of fresh tomatoes and mozzarella cheese, spicy Italian sausage, tuna or chicken fillings.

Other items on the menu include the Piadina Piatto Unico (a set menu with choices of either pasta, piadina, salad, soup and dessert), pasta varieties and Italian-style pizzas.

For those who are expecting many Italian details in its interiors, you're in for a surprise because the 74-sq-m Piadina Centrale is starkly modern, from the black granite tiles to its dark chocolate leather chairs. Its lighting design casts a dramatic effect, especially during dinnertime.

La Piadina serves authentic, fresh and healthy Italian meals at reasonable prices. It also offers special packages to suit the average diner's budget. The restaurant is open Mondays-Sundays, 10 a.m.-11 p.m. La Piadina is also located at the 2/L of Padre Faura Wing, Robinsons Place Ermita and will soon open at Greenbelt Mall, Makati.

PASTA Scampi with fresh shrimps



Recipe for romance

SURPRISE your loved one(s) with a heart-shaped cheesecake with blueberry or cherry toppings, recipe of which follows courtesy of Traders Café. This sweet concoction is available only until Feb. 16 at the Traders Café.

Baked Heart-Shaped Cheesecake

1 pack cream cheese
1 c refined sugar
4 pc egg yolk
¼ c melted butter
1 pinch iodized salt
2½ c whipping cream
1 c blueberries/cherries

Beat the whipping cream and set aside. Beat the cream cheese and refined sugar in a mixer using high speed (#3). Add the egg yolks until floppy and then add the melted butter and iodized salt. When done, mix this with the whipping cream using an egg beater. Before putting in a round mould, wipe the side of the mould with shortening and place breadcrumbs along the inner side of the mould. Bake it to 150°C for about 30-35 minutes. When done, chill the cake and add blueberries or cherries as topping before serving.

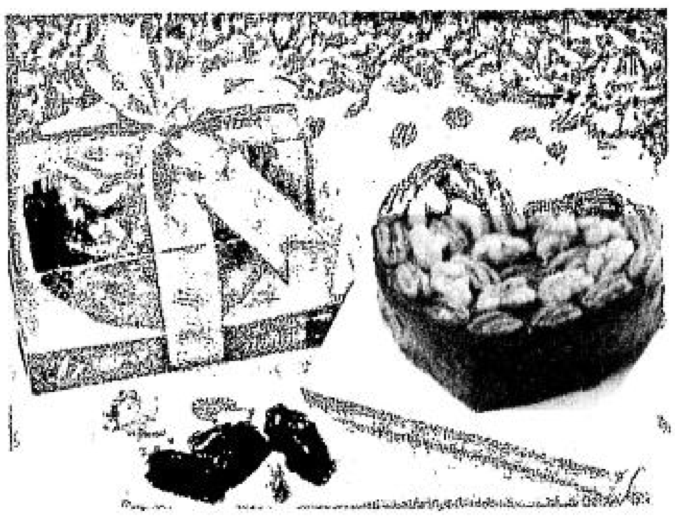
French cakes and pastries with Valentine dash

DELIFRANCE offers heart-shaped cakes made from the finest and richest ingredients blended in Rich Chocolate variant and topped with a sugarcoated flower. It also offers Dates and Walnuts Cake, consisting of prunes, cashew nuts and dried mangoes sprinkled with pecan and brushed with apricot gel.

Every purchase of Rich Chocolate and Dates and Walnuts entitles a customer to a French Kiss Wazzup Card, which lovers could use to peek at their future through the Love Oracle. The Philippine Astrologer Organization will conduct special sessions today at Rockwell's Power Plant Mall at 10 a.m.-2 p.m. and at Greenhills-Roosevelt at 4-9 p.m.

Today, at 5-9 p.m., couples in Rockwell, Eastwood City Walk, UN Avenue, Greenhills-Roosevelt and Libis Greenmeadows will be serenaded by an instrumentalist playing romantic music.

Delifrance in Binondo celebrates the Chinese New Year by offering New Year cakes and pastries until Feb. 28. Ang Pao envelopes with lucky coins shall be given to customers with a minimum P200 purchase.



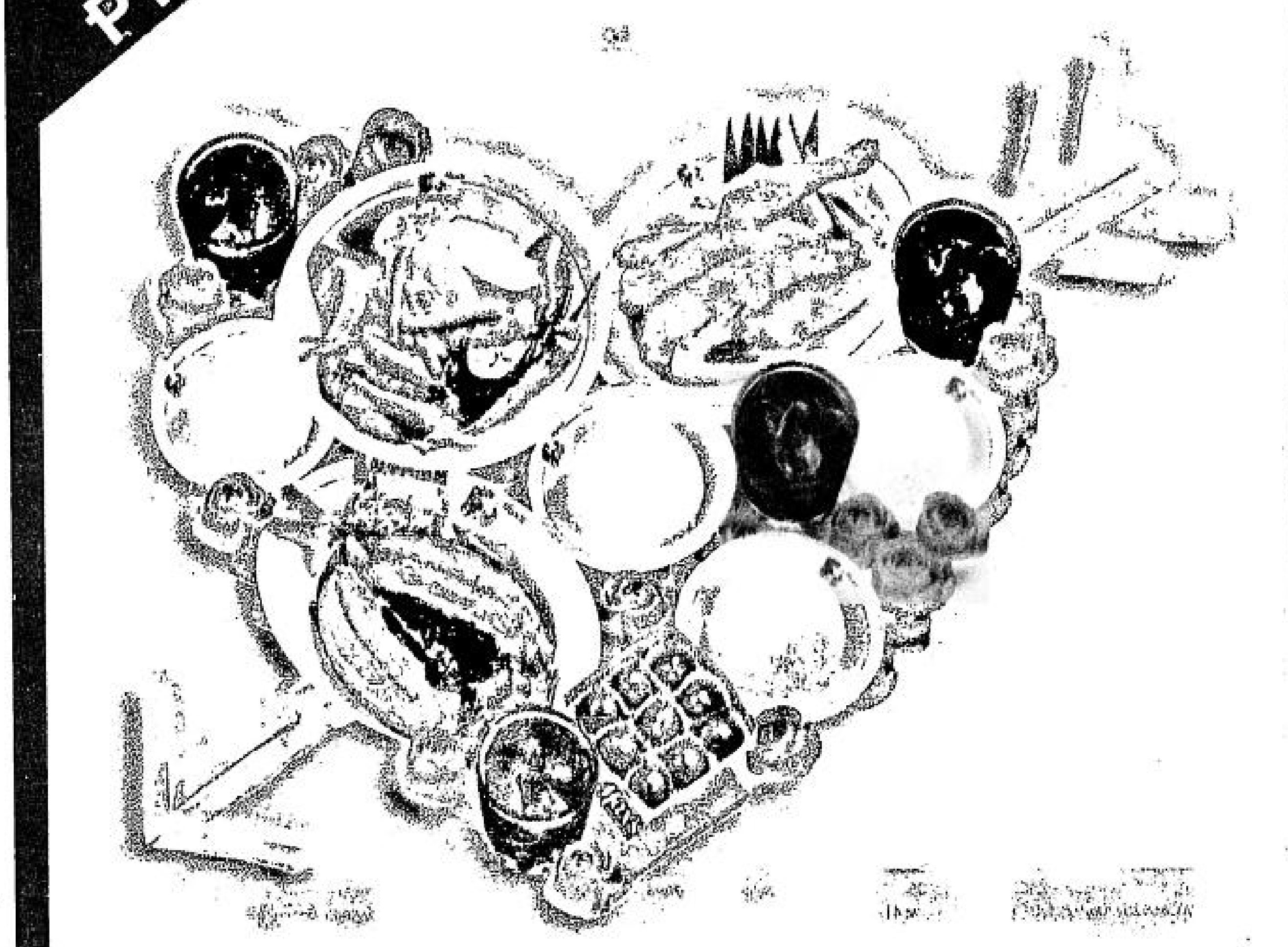
Create your own pizza at home

NOW you can treat the whole family to restaurant-style pizza—right at home—with the new Del Monte Pizza Sauces. Del Monte Pizza Sauces are preseasoned and ready to use for that authentic, restaurant-style taste. Just spread on pizza crust, *pan de sal* or loaf bread, top with your favorite toppings and bake. And because homemade pizza is more affordable by as much as 74 percent, you can have pizza as often as you want.

Pizza Sauce
Pizza Sauce
Pizza Sauce

The new Del Monte Pizza Sauces come in three exciting flavors: Sweet Style for that perfect sweet-spicy taste kids love; Classic Italian, an expert's blend of premium tomatoes and choice spices (oregano, pepper, basil, onion and garlic); and Hot & Spicy, for those who like their pizza flaming hot.

If you want to receive pizza recipes, join the Del Monte Kitchenomics Club. Write to P.O. Box 1651 MCPO 1256, Makati City, or e-mail kitchenomics @delmonte-phil.com.


SAVE P131!

Max's Hearty Meal

Max's Fried Chicken,
Sinigang Soup,
Boneless Bangus,
four glasses of Coke,
four cups of Rice
and a box of Choco Fun Balls

P599 Only

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Max's RESTAURANT

[illegible]

Give her a precious Valentine storey.

Why not buy your loved one a unit at the exclusive Manansala at Rockwell?
With 41 floors of comfortable living to choose from, she'll be recounting your gift for years to come.

Competitively priced • Special introductory discounts for the [illegible]
Model units are available for viewing at Power Plant Mall [illegible]

THE MANANSALA AT ROCKWELL CENTER

A SAMPLER of modern Japanese Kaisekiryori at Juan Miro restaurant

VALENTINE buffet at Palm Court Café, Manila Diamond Hotel

Sweetheart deals

From page E1

course, try Roast Veal with Jamon Serrano and Cornichon served with Wild Rice and Prawns Risotto and Buttered Fresh Asparagus or the Baked Chilean Sea Bass stuffed with Spinach and Mascarpone served with Wild Rice and Prawns Risotto and Buttered Fresh Asparagus. For dessert, try Cappuccino Fudge Cheesecake. A complimentary glass of Cabernet Sauvignon or Chardonnay will be served. All lady guests will also receive a special gift. Blue Bacon & Green Eggs is located at 27 Lantana St. corner Boston Street, New Manila, QC. Call 721-2717, 726-8183/8054.

CASA ARMAS offers three set menus for lovebirds: "House Favorites" includes Chorizo, Caesar's Salad, Paella Valenciana, Salpicao, Zarzuela de Mariscos; "Casa Armas Specials Menu" features Tabla Casa Armas Especial (cheese and *chorizo* platter), Sopa de Ajo, Paella Valenciana, Casa Armas Roast Chicken. There's also a menu for "Seafood Lovers" which includes Gambas al Ajillo, Sopa de Mariscos, Paella Marinera and Than Long-Style Crabs. All menus include desserts and free Spanish wine. Call Casa Armas Makati at 897-3605/3542 or Casa Armas Ortigas at 687-3665/ 3663.

TEQUILA JOE'S offers a Valentine package for two this February. For P999 couples will have a choice of Caesar's Salad or Wild Mushroom and Sage Soup for appetizer. For the main course, try the Pan-seared Salmon with French Beans, Shiitake Mushrooms and Mashed Potatoes, or the Pan Roasted Tenderloin with caramelized onions and sautéed spinach, roasted garlic and mashed potatoes. Seal the evening with sweetness via Chocolate Divinity, rich chocolate torte with strawberry coulis. Accompany the whole meat with Lipton Ice Tea. This promo is ongoing at Tequila Joe's branches at the Glorietta 4, Ayala Center; El Pueblo in Ortigas; and Alabang Town Center's Corte de las Palmas and Cebu.

BRAVO!, the Italian restaurant bar in Malate and Festival Mall in Alabang, offers a pasta medley. Rossini, a Bravo! original blend of sparkling Italian wine enhanced with a hint of strawberry purée, comes with the Valentine meal. The menu starts with Tortellini in Brodo, clear soup with vegetables and pasta filled with meat and cheese, or Insalata al Gorgonzola, lollo russa lettuce with gorgonzola dressing. Chef Tiziano's pasta offering is the Tris de San Valentino, three pastas with different sauces: Papardelle alla Napoletana, egg pasta with a sauce of cherry tomatoes and beef chunks; Cannelloni alla Sorrentina, pasta roll with ricotta, spinach and parma topped with bechamel sauce; and Spaghetti de Mare al Agro, noodles with lemon, extra virgin olive oil, squid and shrimps. For the main course: Scalopine alla Lampedusa, pork tenderloin smothered with sauce of tomato, squid and anchovies, or go light with the Salmone alle Mandorle, Norwegian salmon with cashew nuts. Desserts include Uva della Passione, grapes with brandy and cream, and Fantasie de Fragole, fresh strawberries and sponge cake.

JUAN MIRO RESTAURANT lets you sample the Japanese *kaisekiryori* meal: solo-sized portions of a variety of seafood, fish and beef tenderloin this Valentine's Day, either for lunch or dinner. Chef Seiji Kamura prepares three set menus, priced at P500, P600 and P700 per person. Each set menu includes appetizers, a choice of Japanese or European Soup, salad, a choice of fish, chicken, seafood or beef tenderloin plus dessert, coffee or tea. Juan Miro Restaurant is located at the 2/F, Millenium Place, San Miguel Avenue, Ortigas Center. Customers get a 10-percent discount on the set menu of their choice. Call 687-0880; telefax 687-3439.

CASA ARMAS' "Agachonas en Adobo" (Baby Snipes)

CASA ARMAS' "Pulpo ala Gallega" (Baby Octopus)

HYATT REGENCY MANILA offers Italian specials for two, which include a four-course dinner with a choice of Oven-Roasted Duck Breast with Pepperonata and Olive-Scented Mashed Potato, Grilled Tenderloin Beef and Tiger Prawns with Spinach Fettuccine and Tomato Anchovy Salsa, or Broiled Seafood Brochette with Saffron Risotto and Roman-style Spinach for the main course, plus wine and desserts. Tempura Misono offers Japanese dinner buffet of Teppanyaki Sizzlers, Lobster Thermidor Misono-style, Grilled Salmon, Stuffed Crab and beef steak. Call 633-1234.

THE RICHMONDE HOTEL offers diners a lover's feast. Its executive chef has prepared Pan-seared Tranch of Norwegian Salmon on Sautéed Spinach Prociutto, Grilled Twin Beef Tenderloin Steak on Herbed Cheese Risotto, Fruity Smoked Chicken with Black Sesame Seeds and Consomme of Ox Tail with Merlot Essence. Diners also get a glass of red or white wine. A heart-shaped chocolate cake will be given as tokens to all lady diners. Call 638-7777 local 3401, 3408 and 3409.

OLD SWISS Inn presents a new array of fondues—from appetizer to entrée to dessert—until tomorrow. Appetizers include the Fondue de Mosses, a combination of Appenzell, Gruyere, dried boletus mushrooms, dry white wine and plum brandy; Bagna Cauda, anchovy and garlic dip with cream and butter, served with raw vegetables, tomatoes, mushrooms and bread sticks; Fondue Tomaten, melted raclette, Gruyere cheese with freshly chopped tomatoes and served with boiled baby potatoes and the Fondue Appenzell, made with Appenzell cheese, classic dry white wine and fruit brandy.

Fondue entrées include the Lamb Loin Fondue, thin slices of aged Australian lamb, served with green salad, French fries and sauces such as au jus, mint tomato, bernaisse sauce and base mayonnaise; Trio of Fish Fondue, a triple fish treat of salmon, tuna and blue marlin fillet dipped in saffron fish stock served with garlic rice and horseradish, soya, sesame oil base sauces and Fondue du Valais, Parma ham with asparagus spears dipped in classic Swiss Cheese Fondue.

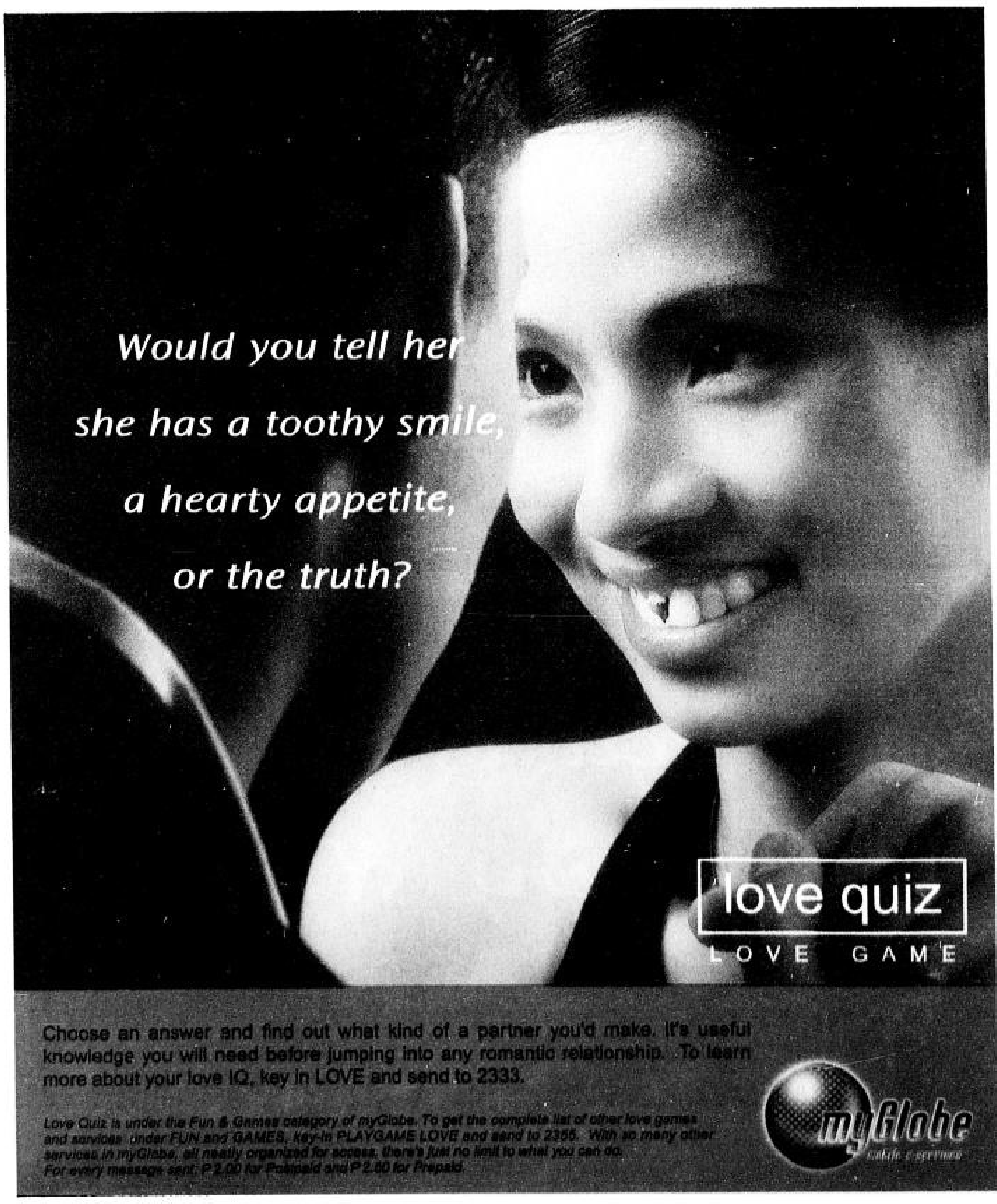
For your dessert, try Nougatine and Toblerone Milk Chocolate Fondue—made of classic Toblerone chocolate nougat, cream and fresh chocolate; Mint Chocolate Fondue, made of classic Toblerone chocolate, cream spiked with mint liquor, served with kiwi fruit and green apples; Rum-Dark Chocolate Fondue, melted dark chocolate and cream spiked with rum and served with pear fruit and red apples.

CENTURY PARK HOTEL celebrates Hearts Day with a buffet dinner for two at the Café in the Park or a set dinner at the Unkai with a free bottle of red or white wine plus a free red rose for the lady. For a nightcap, enjoy a box of pralines and buffet breakfast for two at the Café in the Park. You can also try the "executive treat" for only P6,800. Enjoy cocktails at the Executive Lounge, 5:30-7:30 p.m.

THE WESTIN PHILIPPINE PLAZA creates a romantic moment with candle-lit dinner, wine and love songs. Dine in an Italian rustic setting at the Alfiere restaurant. At the Café Plaza, partake of a dinner buffet spread of international specialties from across the globe. Relish the seafood noodle bar, carvery, sushi and sashimi station, main courses, dessert, all-you-can-drink juice bar, and free-flowing champagne. At the China Sea Restaurant, savor a six-course set menu that starts with a potent aphrodisiac, Double Boiled Pigeon and Sea Horse with Chinese Herbs Soup. All ladies get a love memento on Valentine's Day in all the hotel outlets. Call 551-5555.

HOLIDAY INN MANILA'S Café Coquilla offers an array of buffets until Feb. 15. Try the Sushi and Sashimi; Stuffed Tomato with Russian Salad; Shrimp Cocktail with Marie Rose Sauce; Chicken Galantine; and Pears with Liver Mousse. Selections of hot soups are available to fire up your appetites: Seafood and Beancurd Soup and Consomme Celestine, while Chicken Shawarma is at the carving. Buffet selections include Roast Duck with Orange Sauce; Seafoods; Lamb Cutlet with Garlic Thyme Sauce; Beef Tenderloin in Mushroom Sauce; Pork Spareribs; Ravioli Napolitana; Herb Chateau Potato; Vegetable Ratatouille; and Carrot Vichyssoise. Desserts are available: Mango Cheese Cake; Creme Caramel; Pistachio Mousse; Chocolate Eclair; Apple Pie; Raspberry Cake; Mini Tartleffes; and Carrot Cake. The dinner comes with a complimentary rose to all ladies on Valentine's Day. Call 526-1212 local 2318.

MANILA GALLERIA SUITES offers special buffet spread by renowned chef Stefan Parkas at



Choose an answer and find out what kind of a partner you'd make. It's useful knowledge you will need before jumping into any romantic relationship. To learn more about your love IQ, key in LOVE and send to 2333.

Love Quiz is under the Fun & Games category of myGlobe. To get the complete list of other love games and services under FUN and GAMES, key-in PLAYGAME LOVE and send to 2355. With so many other services in myGlobe, all neatly organized for access, there's just no limit to what you can do. For every message sent: P 2.00 for Postpaid and P 2.50 for Prepaid.

Happy Valentine

SAY "I Love You" with Hotel Inter-Continental's Jeepney Deli Shop's strawberry cakes, chocolates and other delectable treats all nicely wrapped for Valentine's Day.

the hotel's Raphael Café-Restaurant. A raffle will be drawn for diners on V-day, with prizes from Crabtree & Evelyn and Cosmopolitan Magazine. Call 633-7111 local 7416/7440.

FIDEL Restaurant offers French and Moroccan delights. Start with Huitres et sauce Mignonette (Fresh oysters in red wine sauce) Then a choice of Bastilla et salade marocaine (Cinnamon scented Moroccan beef in filo pastry with salad) or a Pissaladiere (Pizza, the French way). Try Riesling Granite Sorbet before going to the main: Tagine de Merguez (Couscous and spicy Moroccan lamb sausages) or Boulabaise provencale (classic seafood soup). For dessert, Mousse au chocolat blanc et meringue pistaches (White chocolate mousse with pistachio meringue, chocolate sauce, pomegranate praline and rose-scented orange segments). Cap your meal with Mignardises (Chocolate mint and bergamot chocolate truffle, caramel chews, apricot sugar plums, pistachio brittle). Call 525-9590.

YAT'S INTERNATIONAL WINE CLUB at the Clark Special Economic Zone treats diners to a night of unforgettable romance and fine dining this Valentine.

Executive chef Chris Locher is whipping up a gastronomic feast of foie gras terrine with pumpkin seed and walnut oil vinaigrette, artichoke espresso for starters and a choice from any of these main courses: pan-seared Alaskan black cod with coriander bedded on classic crêpe risotto, garnished with oven-roasted tomatoes and green asparagus; or grilled veal chop with mushroom sauce served with home-style made noodles, garnished with fresh broccoli roses; or US Black angus sirloin "the classic baseball cut," served on butter-whipped potatoes with assorted green vegetables or oven-roasted rack of lamb with citrus and mint enticed madeira demi-glaze served on toasted bulgur with figs and pine nuts accompanied with ratatouille or oven-roasted French guinea fowl breast on perigeaux truffle essence accompanied by parmesan enticed polenta and butter sautéed savoy cabbage. A serving of classic soufflé glazed grand marnier served on a bed of assorted fresh forest berries and three types of sauce caps this meal. Dinner price per couple is P3,000 on Feb. 15 and 16 and P3,500, today. Ladies will be treated to roses and pralines. Call 633-1566 or 045-5995600 (Clark).

TRADERS CLUB gives you the view. Treat your loved one to a romantic dinner at its lounge amidst the breathtaking view of Manila Bay for only P1,100 for two persons. The special candle-lit dinner is inclusive of soup, main course and dessert. Only limited seats available. But until Feb. 28 at the Traders Café, chef's special dinner will truly be a treat for lovers. For every order of lunch or dinner for two persons, guests will be entitled to free appetizer or dessert and one round of soft drink, juice or wine. The dinner priced at P450 per person includes salad buffet and main course and comes with a special gift for the ladies.

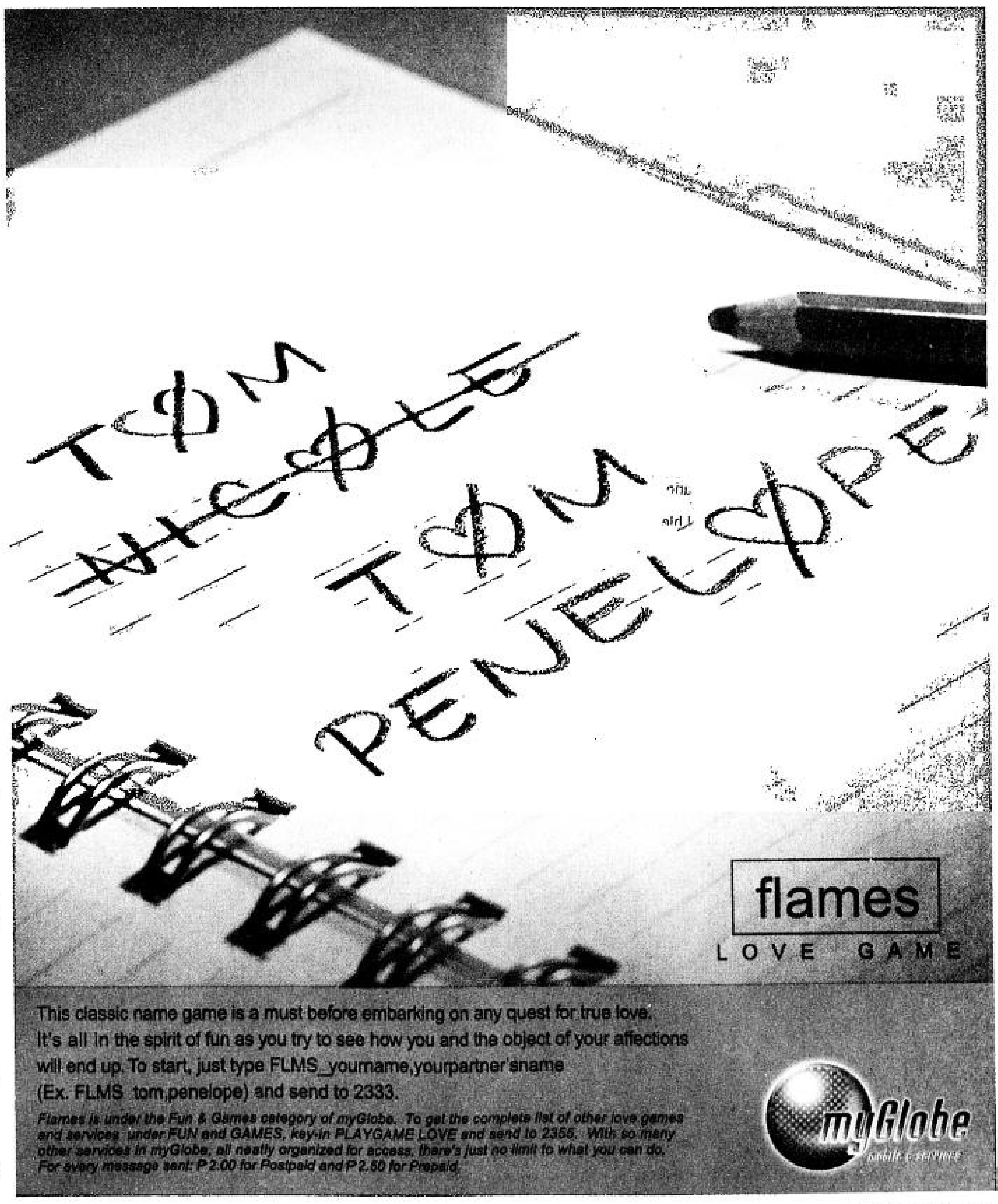
Call 523-7011.

OLD Swiss Inn's February treats include the Toblerone Chocolate Fondue.

VALENTINE BOWL-OUT!

get one free game
for every two games played.
promo period is from
february 8-22, 2002
present this ad and get
one (1) extra game for free!
valid for one (1) person per visit only. not valid with other promos

SM BOWLING CENTER
NORTH EDSA • MEGAMALL
CEBU • FAIRVIEW



flames
LOVE GAME

This classic name game is a must before embarking on any quest for true love. It's all in the spirit of fun as you try to see how you and the object of your affections will end up. To start, just type FLMS_yourname,yourpartner'sname (Ex. FLMS tom,penelope) and send to 2333.

Flames is under the Fun & Games category of myGlobe. To get the complete list of other love games and services under FUN and GAMES, key-in PLAYGAME LOVE and send to 2355. With so many other services in myGlobe, all neatly organized for access, there's just no limit to what you can do. For every message sent: P2.00 for Postpaid and P2.50 for Prepaid.

myGlobe mobile e-services

If you want to floor her with a gift, choose from 7th to 41st.

THE MANANSALA AT ROCKWELL CENTER

Buy your loved one a unit at the exclusive Manansala at Rockwell.
41 floors of elegant design and comfortable living will leave her impressed.

Art, music, fine cuisine and . . . all you need bring is love

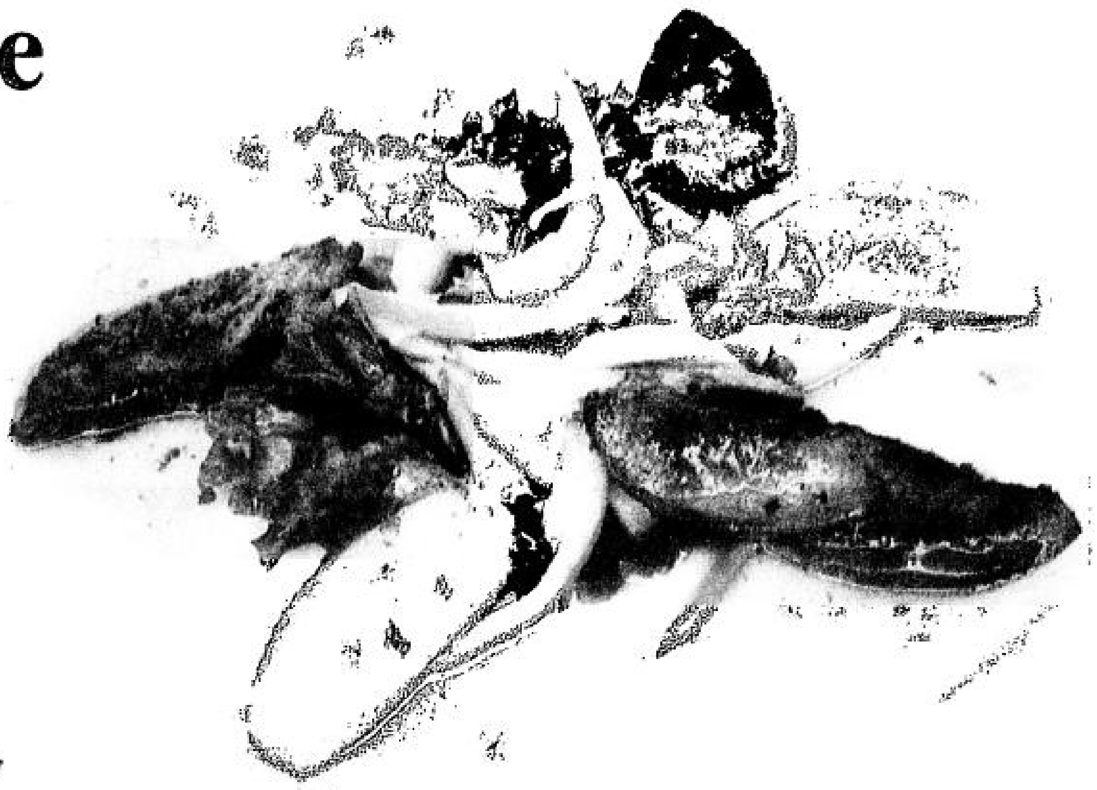
El Botin, which reopened recently in Libis, traces its lineage to the oldest restaurant in the world

GOYA supposedly worked there before becoming a painter and Hemingway, a frequent visitor, even pronounced it one of his favorite restaurants.

According to the Guinness Book of Records, El Botin in Madrid, Spain is the oldest restaurant in the world, dating from 1725. The restaurant is also mentioned in the book "Fortunata y Jacinta" by Benito Perez Galdos (published 1886-1887).

Today, the restaurant is decidedly a tourist spot since it appears in so many guides. Don't let that put you off, though, because Spaniards still go there to sample its specialties, like *cochinillo asado* (roast suckling pig) and *cordero asado* (roast lamb). As you eat, you may find yourself serenaded by the occasional "*tuna*," a musical group formed by students who play traditional songs in traditional dress, complete with knickerbockers.

El Botin was opened in the Philippines in the late '60s. It served Malate's finest Spanish cuisine until the mid-'70s when it was relocated to San Juan.



BROILED lamb chops marinated with special herbs

PHOTOS: PAULO PINEDA

GRILLED ribeye angus steak

Reopened

The recently reopened El Botin, this time located at the ground floor, Information Center, Fuente Circle, Eastwood City Walk in Libis, QC, boasts intricately detailed interiors. It was constructed last year as a painting gallery-type exhibit area. A piano bar and Mediterranean-inspired cuisine were added in January.

BAKED female crab marinated in garlic and butter

"Our reputation was built over time. We have had three centuries of flavorful experience," says restaurateur/interior design specialist Irene Pineda.

Main courses in most Spanish restaurants can be very spartan where vegetables are concerned, and El Botin is no exception. This is just the way it goes—the Spanish tend to separate their vegetables and serve them up as starters.

Pizzaritas and *foie gras* are highly recommended for appetizers. The portions are midsized and diners can discover that this is a comforting trend throughout the meal.

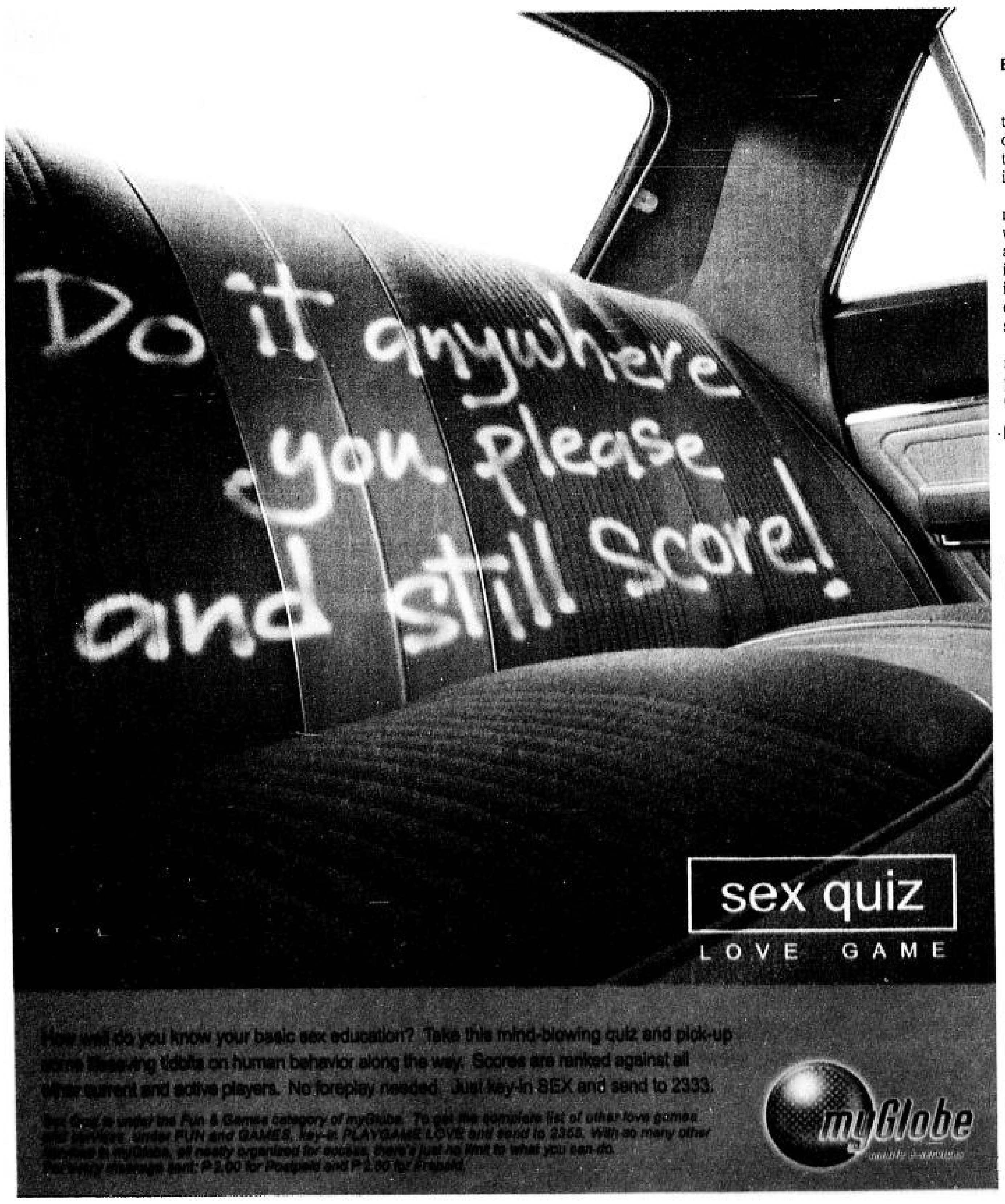
The main course highlights the pan-fried sea bass with cheese capers served with pine seeds. The sea bass comes in two huge pieces covered with white wine and lemon butter sauce. Main courses include Lamb Chops and Sautéed Crab Claws coated with red chili sauce. For dessert, try double frosted chocolate cake. To cap a meal, order a cup of coffee—*cortados*.

Call 421-3084 or visit El Botin at The Fuente Circle, G/F Information Center Building, Eastwood City, Libis, QC.

Say it with a cake

GOURMET PALATE offers photo, baptismal, shower and birthday cakes with one-of-a-kind designs. Available in flavors of chiffon, butter, mocha/*pandan*, chocolate de luxe, rum, scotch, triple sec, cointreau, prune, apple cinnamon, mango, date, carrot, squash, tomato, zucchini and ube, the cakes' prices depend on their size, flavor and décor. For simple cakes, Gourmet Palate requires at least three days' notice and for decorated ones, two weeks. Call 807-3452 and 807-8052.

Happy Anniversary



sex quiz
LOVE GAME

How well do you know your basic sex education? Take this mind-blowing quiz and pick-up some [illegible] tidbits on human behavior along the way. Scores are ranked against all other current and active players. No foreplay needed. Just key-in SEX and send to 2333.

Sex Quiz is under the Fun & Games category of myGlobe. To get the complete list of other love games and services, under FUN and GAMES, key-in PLAYGAME LOVE and send to 2355. With so many other services in myGlobe, all neatly organized for access, there's just no limit to what you can do.
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myGlobe

Exotic and erotic offerings on Eros' Day

From page E8

utes. Agitate wok. In low fire, continue simmering for 20 minutes or until done. Taste. Ready to serve.

Adobong Pugo

1 kg *pugo*, clean
1½ c vinegar
¼ c soy sauce
100 g garlic, native
1 tbsp whole black pepper, ground
2 pc *laurel* leaves
1 tbsp salt
5 c water
½ c cooking oil

Slice *pugo* into halves, wash, drain and set aside. In a clean food container/mixing bowl, combine cleaned *pugo*, vinegar, soy sauce, 50 g garlic, black pepper, laurel, salt. Mix well. Put cover. Chill and marinate overnight.

Bring to boil marinated *pugo* for 3 minutes. Reduce fire. Continue simmering for 30 minutes until tender. In a wok, sauté 50 g garlic until golden brown. Add boiled *pugo*, stir and simmer for 10 minutes or until done. Ready to serve.

Adobo Camaro

1 c *camaro*, cleaned
½ cooking oil
50 g garlic, crushed
150 g onion, sliced
5 pc tomato, sliced
¼ c vinegar
¼ tsp whole black pepper, ground
1 tsp salt

Clean *camaro*, remove wings, feet and head. Set aside. Peel and crush garlic, peel and slice onions. Wash and slice tomatoes; set aside.

In a clean container, combine clean *camaro*, vinegar, ground black pepper, salt and 25 g garlic; set aside. Sauté 25 g garlic until golden brown. Add onions and cook until wilted. Add sliced tomatoes and cook until mushy. Stir. Add marinated *camaro*. Simmer for 30 seconds. Reduce fire. Stir. Continue simmering until sauce dries up. Serve.

Sizzling Bulalo

200 g *bulalo* (with bone marrow)
1 tsp Star margarine
1 tsp flour
1/8 tsp Lea & Perrins
1/8 tsp Knorr seasoning
½ c *bulalo* soup stock
1/8 c evaporated milk
Toppings:
1 pc potato, small, fried
3 pc Baguio beans, boiled
1 pc carrots, small, blanched

Wash, peel and slice potatoes into strips. Wash, blanch, peel and slice carrots into strips. Wash and discard both ends of Baguio beans then slice into 3 inches long; blanch, cool then set aside.

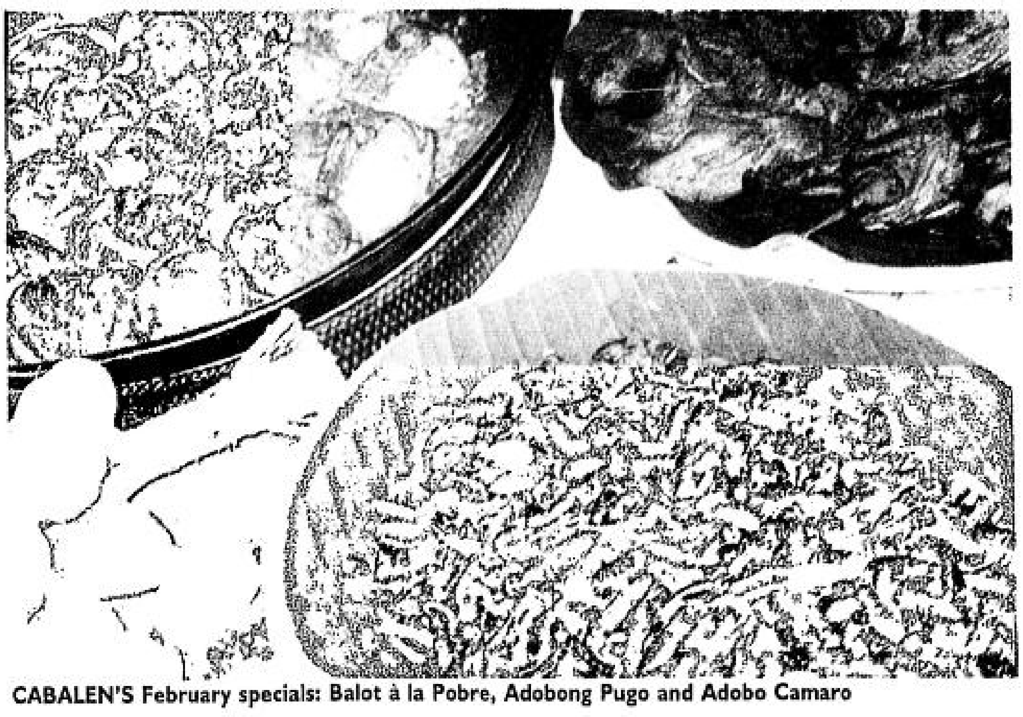
Heat butter in a pan. Add flour little by little while stirring until dissolved and melted. Add *bulalo* stock and stir for 1 minute. Add evaporated milk and bring to boil for 1 minute. Reduce fire. Add Knorr seasoning, Lea & Perrins and *bulalo* meat. Simmer for 2 minutes. Set aside.

In a platter, pour cooked *bulalo* with gravy topped with fried potato, carrots and Baguio beans. Heat sizzling plate, pour cooked *bulalo* with toppings. Serve sizzling.

Caimito Salad

2 kg *caimito*
1 c Nestlé cream
½ c condensed milk

Wash star apple; slice into halves. Remove skin and seeds; set aside. In a clean food container or bowl, combine all ingredients and mix thoroughly. Put in a clean covered container. Chill and serve.

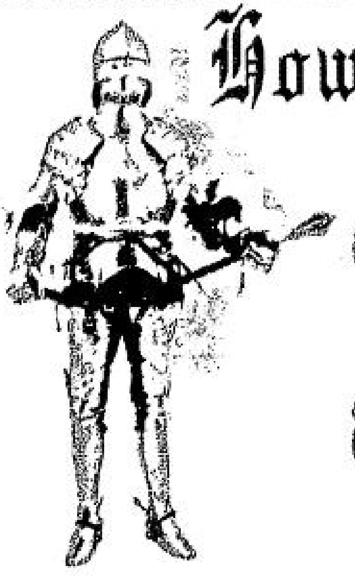

CABALEN'S February specials: Balot à la Pobre, Adobong Pugo and Adobo Camaro

Kilawin Bangus with Cucumber

1 kg back *bangus*
1¾ c vinegar
1/3 c *calamansi* extract
1 pc small ginger native
2 pc red bellpepper
1 tsp whole black pepper, ground
2 pc *sili labuyo*
2 pc medium red onion
3 pc cucumber
1 tsp salt

Remove skin of back *bangus*, slice into medium strips. Blanch for 30 seconds in boiling water, drain. Wash in ¾ c vinegar. Drain and set aside. Wash, peel and slice ginger into strips; wash and slice red bell pepper into strips; wash and slice cucumber into medium strips; wash and slice *labuyo* and onions. Set aside.

In a clean container, combine back *bangus*, *calamansi*, salt, ginger, red bell pepper, cucumber, ground pepper, *labuyo* and onion. Add 1 c vinegar and toss well. Taste and chill. Ready to serve.



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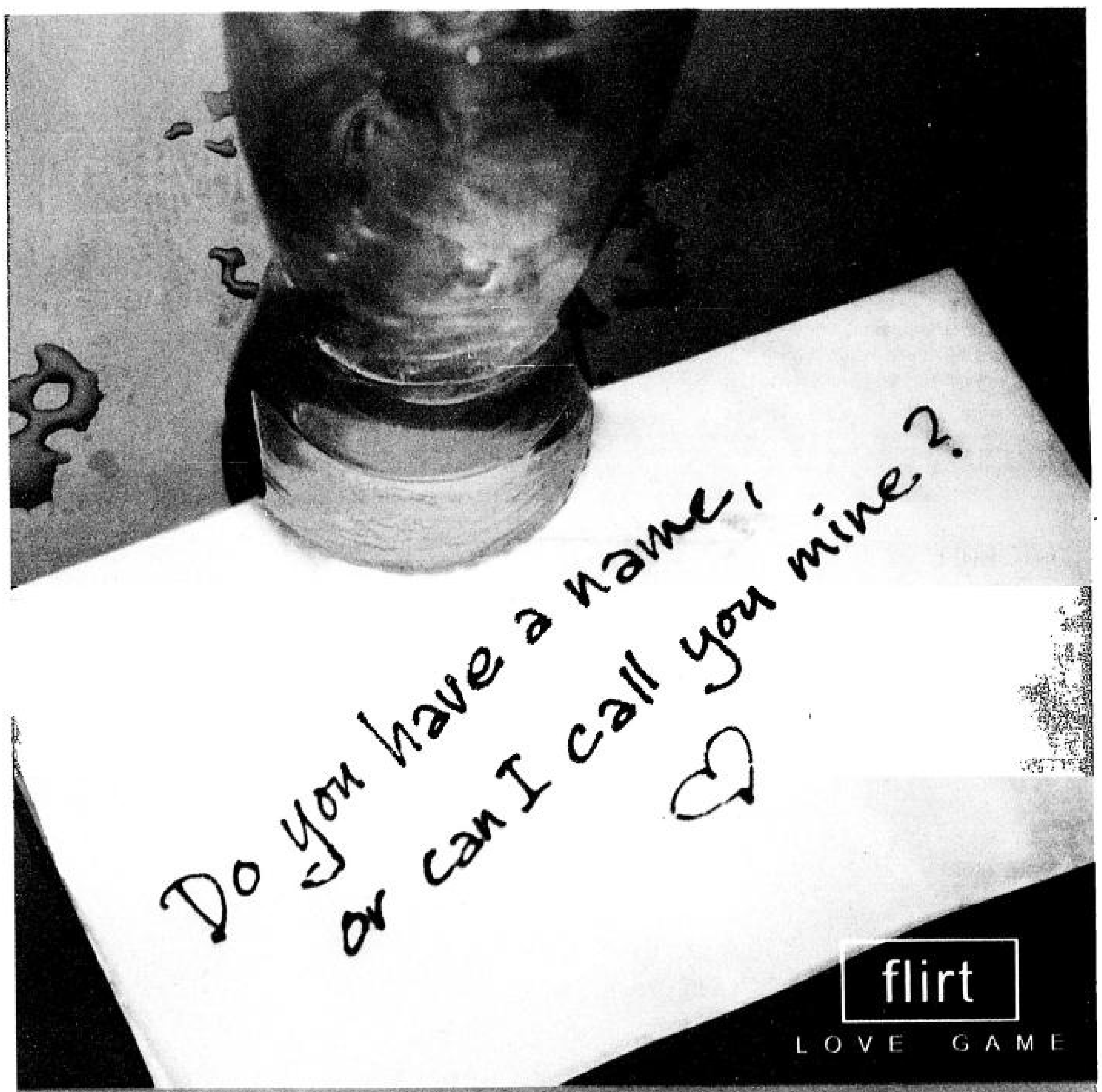

Play FLIRT and choose better pick-up lines. You can also practice how to make "da moves" with the different situations given. It's a great way to hone your flirting skills and perfect your "style"! To start playing, just type FLIRT and send to 2310.

Flirt is under the Fun & Games category of myGlobe. To get the complete list of other love games and services under FUN and GAMES, key-in PLAYGAME LOVE and send to 2355. With so many other services in myGlobe, all neatly organized for access, there's just no limit to what you can do.
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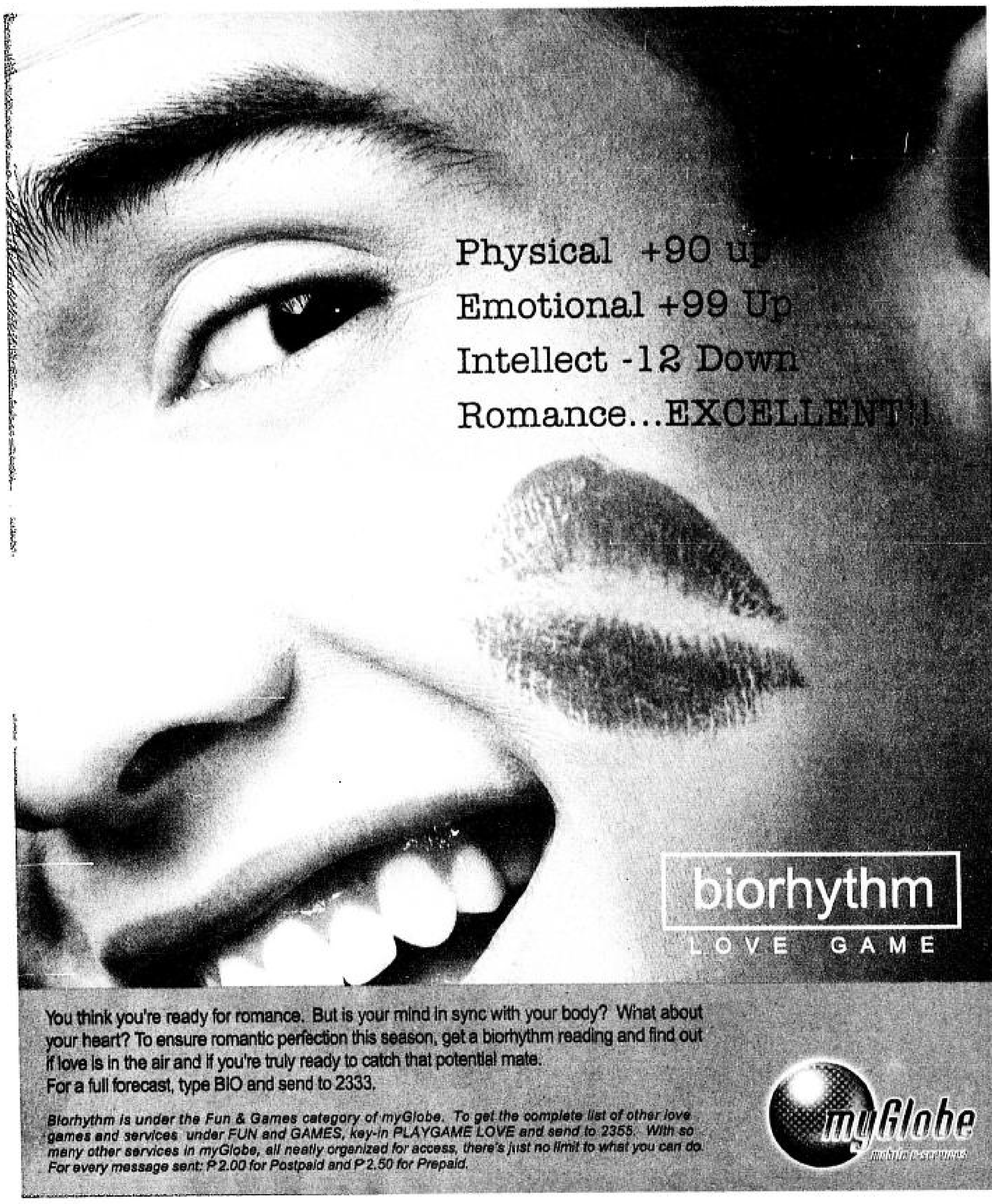
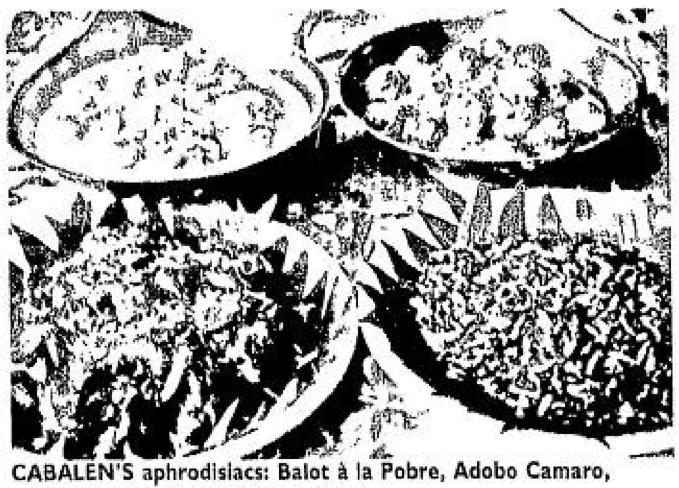


You think you're ready for romance. But is your mind in sync with your body? What about your heart? To ensure romantic perfection this season, get a biorhythm reading and find out if love is in the air and if you're truly ready to catch that potential mate.
For a full forecast, type BIO and send to 2333.

Biorhythm is under the Fun & Games category of myGlobe. To get the complete list of other love games and services under FUN and GAMES, key-in PLAYGAME LOVE and send to 2355. With so many other services in myGlobe, all neatly organized for access, there's just no limit to what you can do. For every message sent: P2.00 for Postpaid and P2.50 for Prepaid.



CABALEN'S aphrodisiacs: Balot à la Pobre, Adobo Camaro, Adobong Pugo and Kilawin Bangus

Exotic and erotic offerings on Eros' Day

WHAT'S the first food that comes to a Pinoy's mind when you say the word "aphrodisiac"? Quite easily, it's *balot*.

Balot is the most affordable aphrodisiac for street-smart Pinoy lovers. But for Pinoy lovers who are gourmets as well, there are many ways of eating *balot*.

Cabalen Restaurant cooks up a sizzling version of *balot*—done à la *pobre* for its February eat-all-you-can, eat-all-you want P220 buffet. Plus other Pinoy aphrodisiac dishes, the recipes of which are shared here by Cabalen for those who want to cook up a Valentine meal at home.

For those who would rather savor Cabalen's version from a buffet table, try Cabalen's eight branches at West Avenue in QC; SM Megamall in Mandaluyong; Glorietta in Ayala Center; Katipunan Avenue in Blue Ridge QC; Robinsons Place in Ermita; SM City Manila; SM North Edsa and Sta. Lucita in Cainta.

Balot à la Pobre

70 pc fertilized duck egg (*balot*)
2 c vinegar
50 g garlic
1 tsp whole black pepper, ground
1 c soy sauce
2 pc *laurel* leaves
2 pc *sili labuyo*
1/8 c cooking oil
1 tbsp salt

Wash *balot*. Put in a clean casserole. Pour in water approximately 6 inches above the egg surface. Bring to boil for 1 hour. Remove cooked *balot*, soak immediately in running water to cool and remove shells. Place shelled *balot* in a clean bowl, including sauce. Add vinegar, soy sauce, ground black pepper, laurel leaves, salt and *labuyo*.

In a wok, sauté garlic until golden brown. Separate half of fried garlic and set aside. Add marinated *balot*. Bring to boil for 2 min-

EXOTIC/ p.E7

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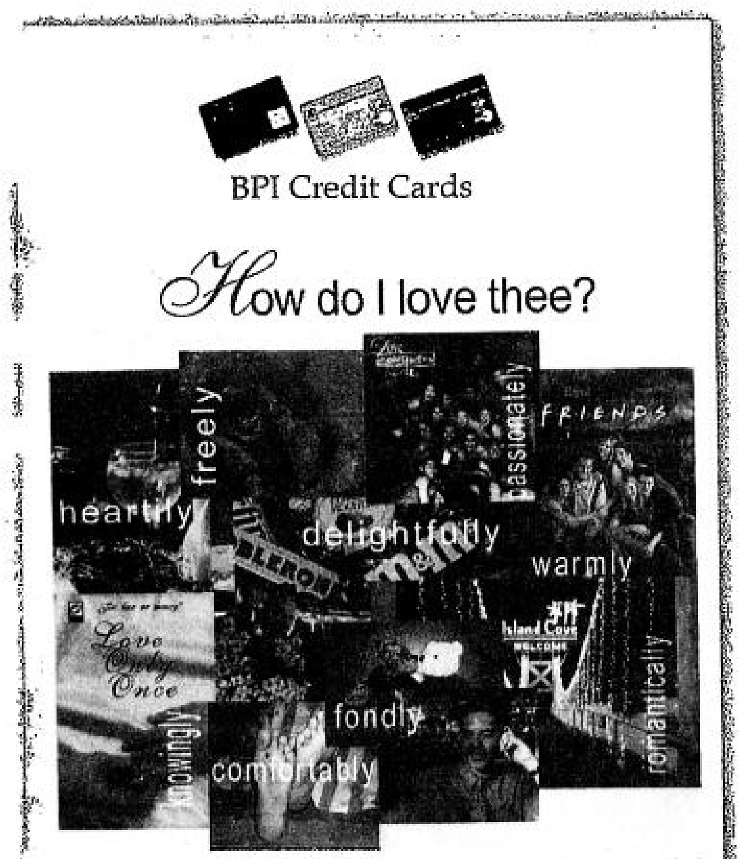

1) Love at first sight.

BPI Credit Cards Valentine Spell

Show your love on Valentine's Day in two romantic ways. First, you may get your special someone a gift via the BPI 2002 Valentine Catalogue* from February 1 to 28, 2002. Simply browse through the catalogue's huge selection of gift ideas like books, CDs, chocolates, tickets to shows, and even dinner reservations. You'll never run out of sweet ways to please your loved one. And with these gifts come more sweet deals like discounts and freebies.

2) Love at the site.

Second, get inside one special world of Valentine gifts at the BPI Valentine Spell Exhibit at Glorietta from February 6 to 15. With an array of heartwarming items like jewelry, cameras, and even travel packages, you will certainly find the perfect one for your love. Either way, and whichever gift you choose, your Valentine will surely love you twice as much.

Visit these fine shops at the exhibit: Alexis Jewelry Inc. • Acme Jewelry Inc. • Lucerne • Naomi's Jewelry Exchange • Parklane • Diagem/DG Alahas • Tiara de Onor • Canon • Kodak • Link Import-Export Ent. Inc. • Noel Gifts • Hallmark • Globe • TRIPS Travel • The Flight Shop • Warner Home Video

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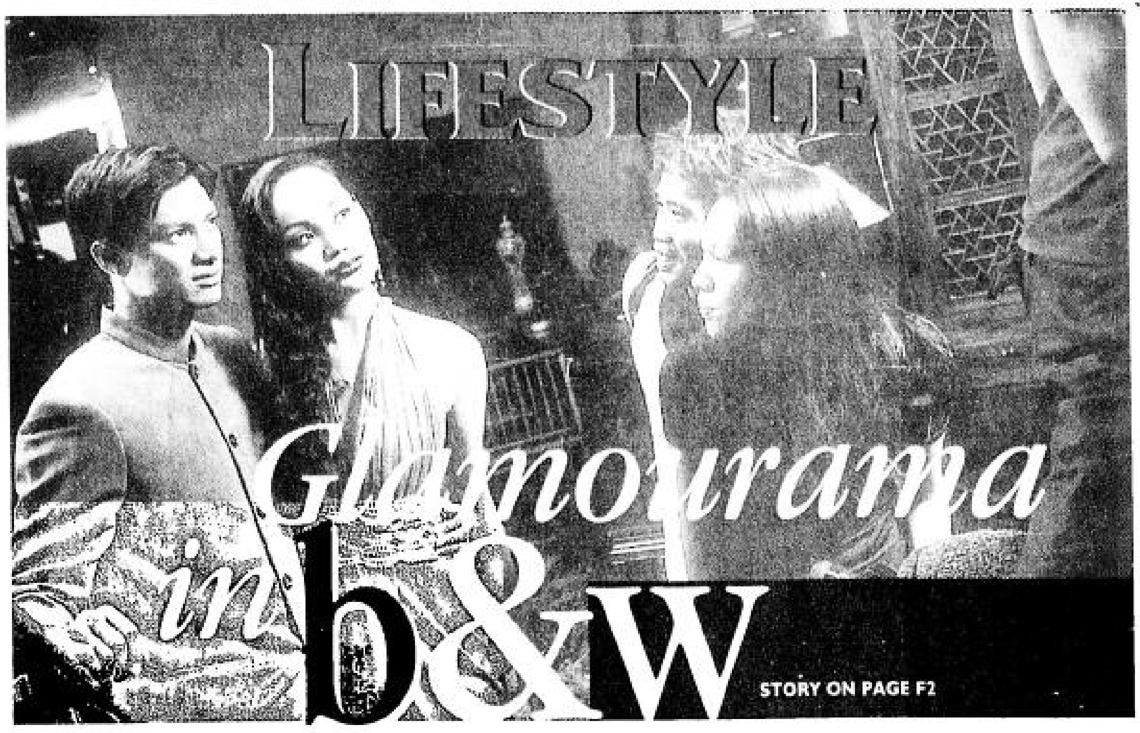


Glamourama in b&w

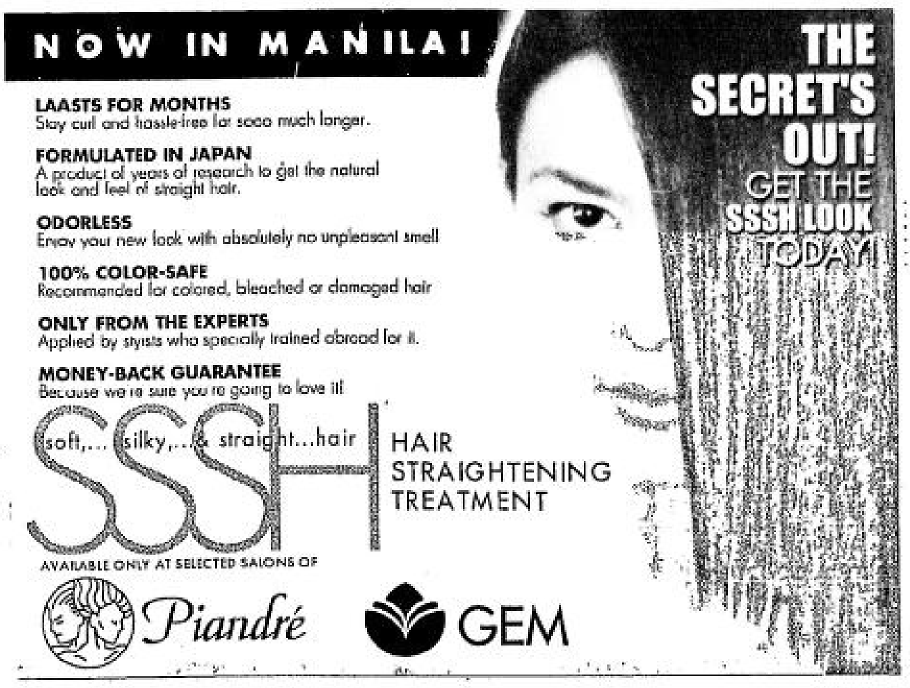
STORY ON PAGE F2

When photography and intimacy meld

STORY ON PAGE F3

Horticulture show posts many firsts

STORY ON PAGE F7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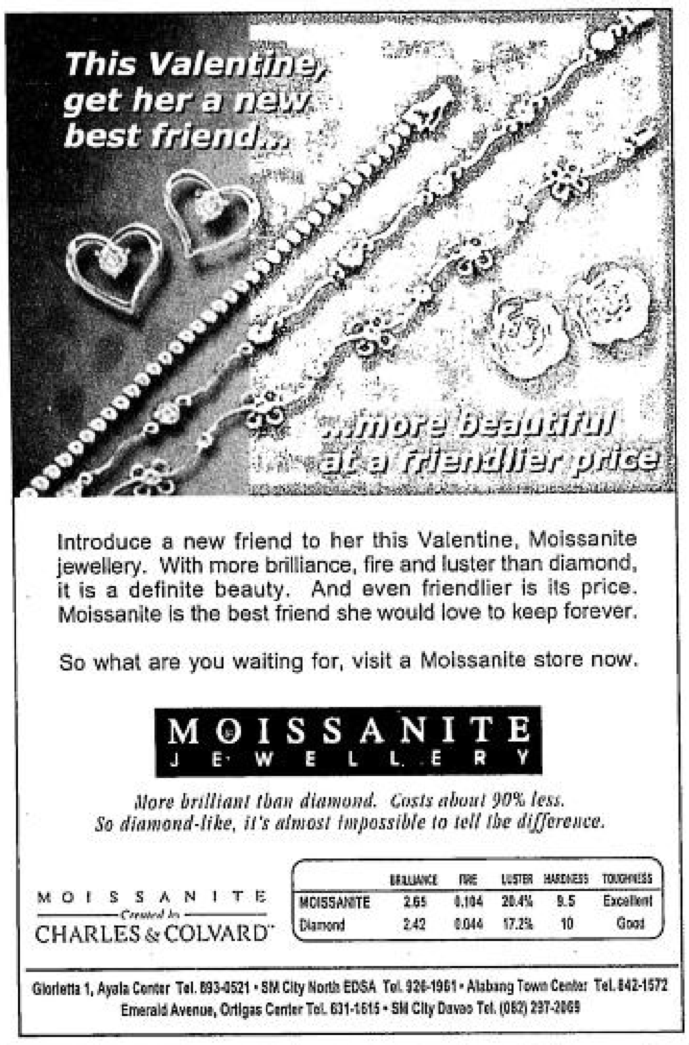
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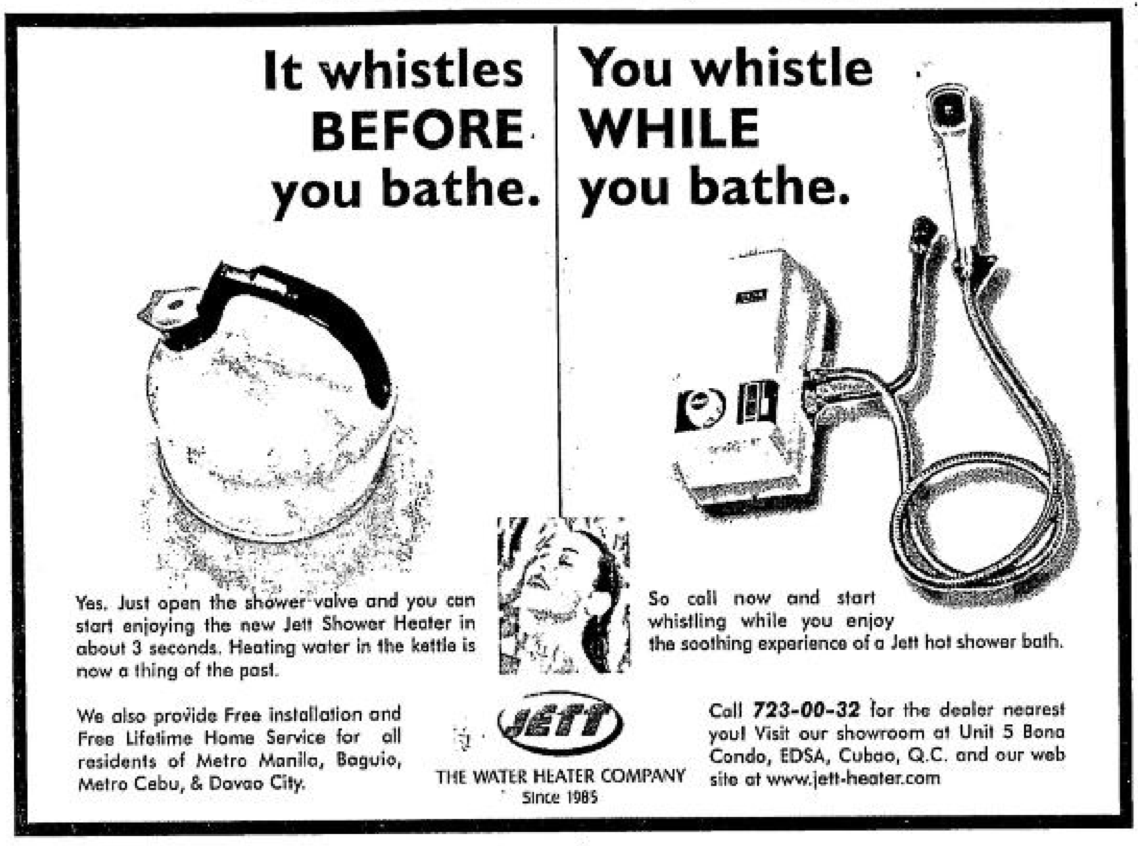
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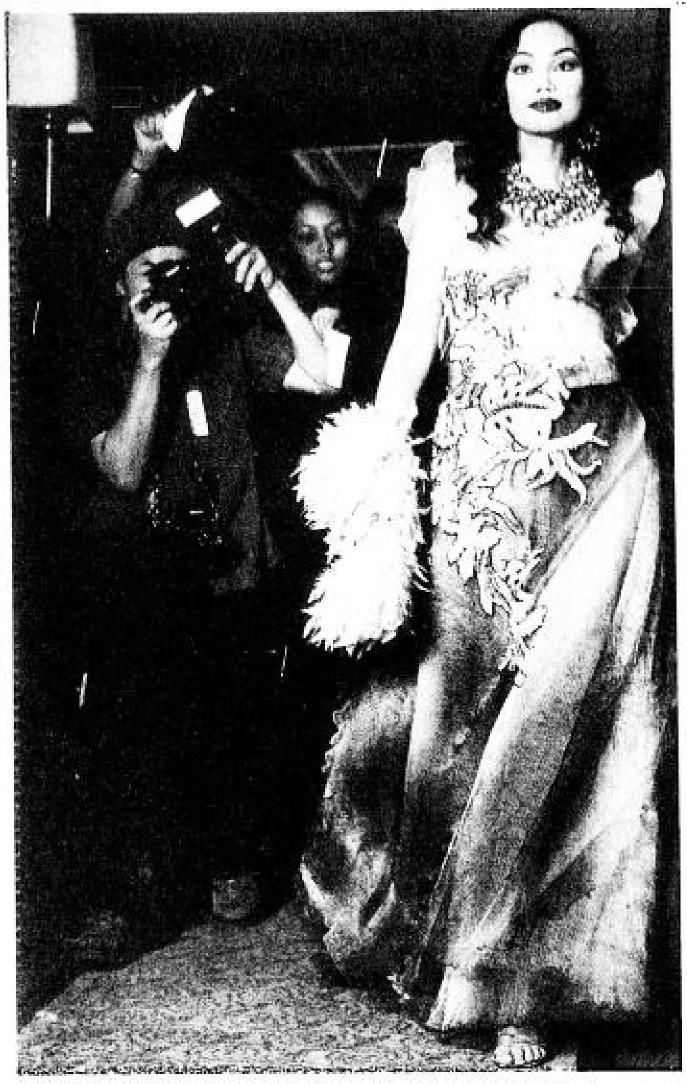
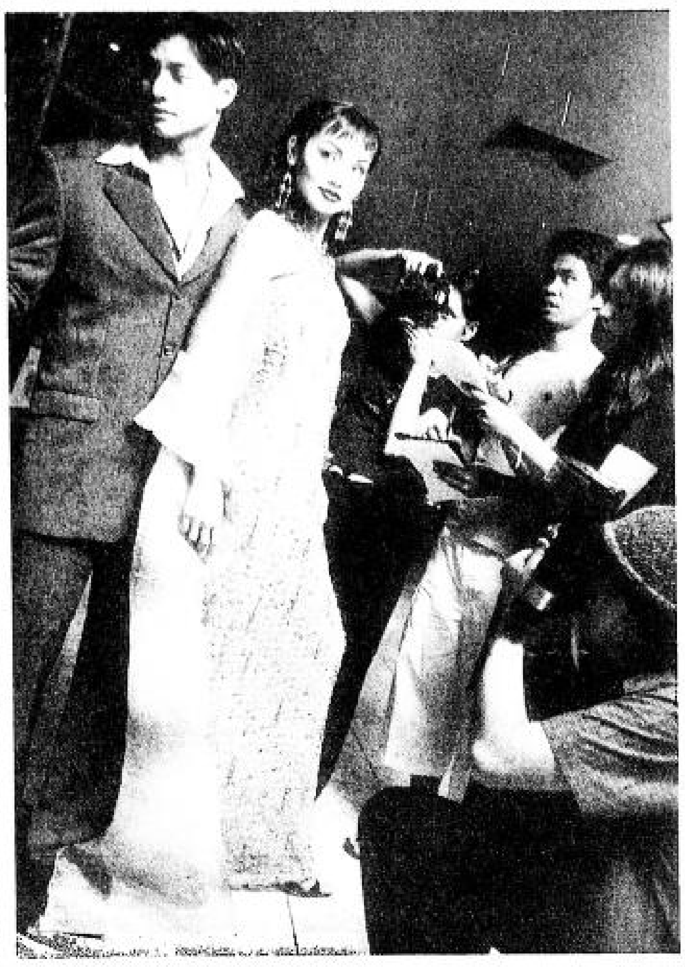
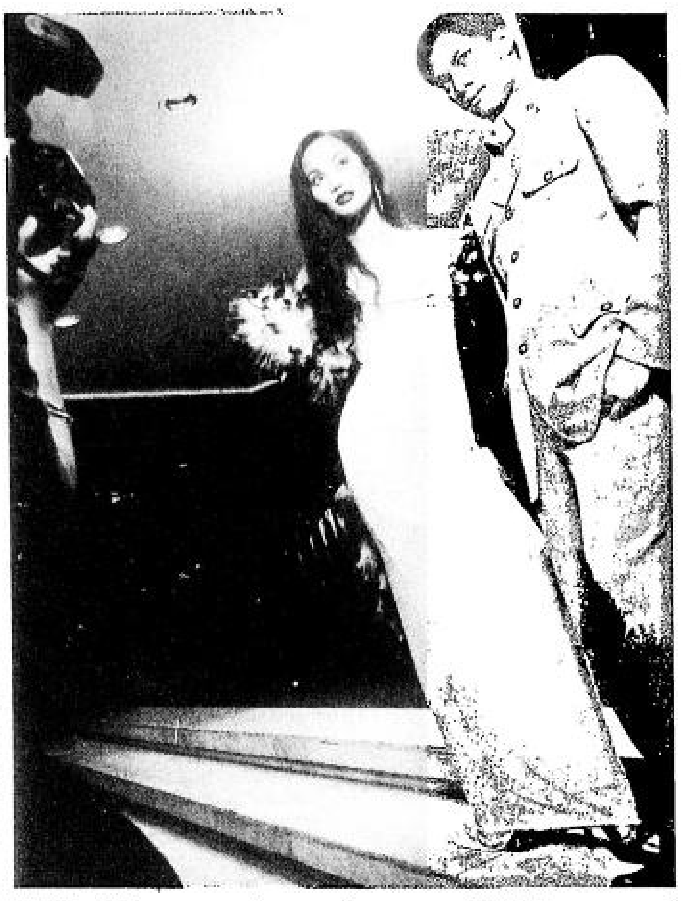


READY to face the cameras. Lucia wears a multilayered crumpled organza gown with overlapped draping. It is adorned with appliqués and sequins.



STALKING the actress and the date. He's in a three-button gabardine wool suit. She's in a stretch lace gown with tassel beadwork.



EVEN in hidden corners, there are the paparazzi. She's in an ecru cowl gown with boa feathers and he's in a four-pocket Dacron wool suit.

VALENTINE NEED NOT BE IN THE RED

Glamourama in b&w

By Marge C. Enriquez
Photos by John Mossige,
CAL CARRIE'S INTERNATIONAL

Exit full color. Enter black and white. A European photographer and a Filipino designer team up to show that style is as perennial as night and day

THE black-and-white pictures taken by Richard Avedon of a movie star in the glamorous '50s, dodging photographers still remains fresh in John Mossige's mind. The European photographer was inspired by Avedon's penchant for motion and emotion in his high-contrast black-and-white images.

Nearly 50 years since that Avedon's ad for Chanel was taken, the concept is still fresh today. This pictorial was set in the Mandarin Oriental Manila, featuring Lucia Santiago as an international celebrity with her Valentine, being pursued by the press.

The pictorial doesn't try to imitate Avedon. Mossige says it's okay to use an old idea, as long as you put in something of your own.

Since Valentine is celebrated with color, we go against the trend by doing black-and-white photography because of its nuances and dramatic effects.

To create strong contrast in black and white, Mossige instructed Studio 58 Lab 10 to use the "dodging and burning" method. Dodging means holding back to make some areas lighter. Other areas are darkened through burning. The objective is to make the main characters stand out in the cluster of people and to create powerful contrasts.

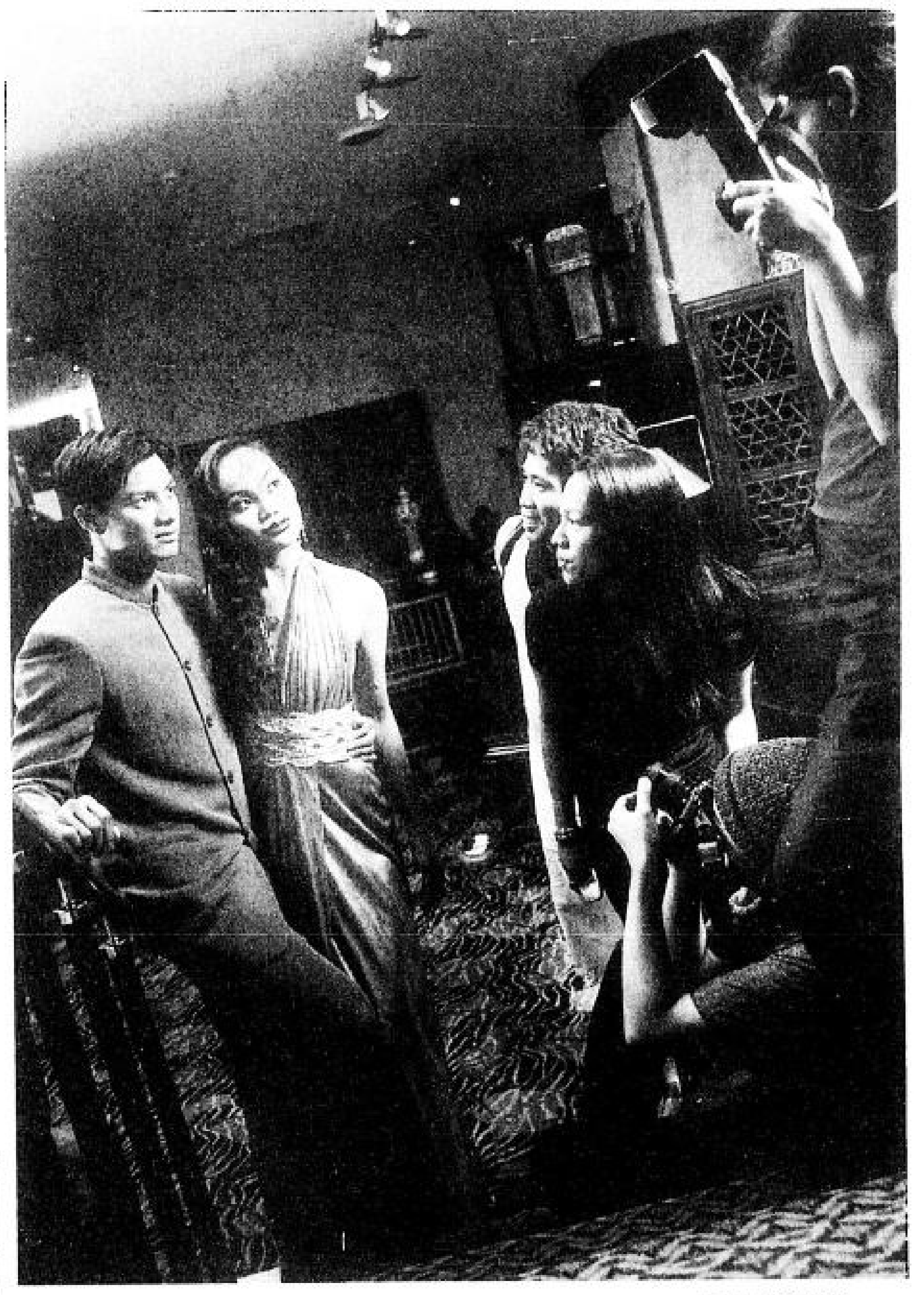
Frederick Peralta is associated with movie star dressing. He dressed up Michael Jackson when he visited Manila six years ago. Peralta also makes suits for Martin Nievera (he dressed him up in his recent "Crossover" concert), Norman Black and Mari Kaimo. He learned his tailoring craft from Gregg Centeno and from his stint with Kerr Jeans and Chancellor 9000.

More than his masculine tailoring, Peralta is known for his trademark bouffant skirts and resplendent beadwork. He likes clothes that are made to be photographed on the red carpet of an awards' night. He likes to dress up women who like to make grand entrances. No wonder, he is linked to such divas as Pops Fernandez, Lani Misalucha, Kuh Ledesma and Miriam Quiambao.

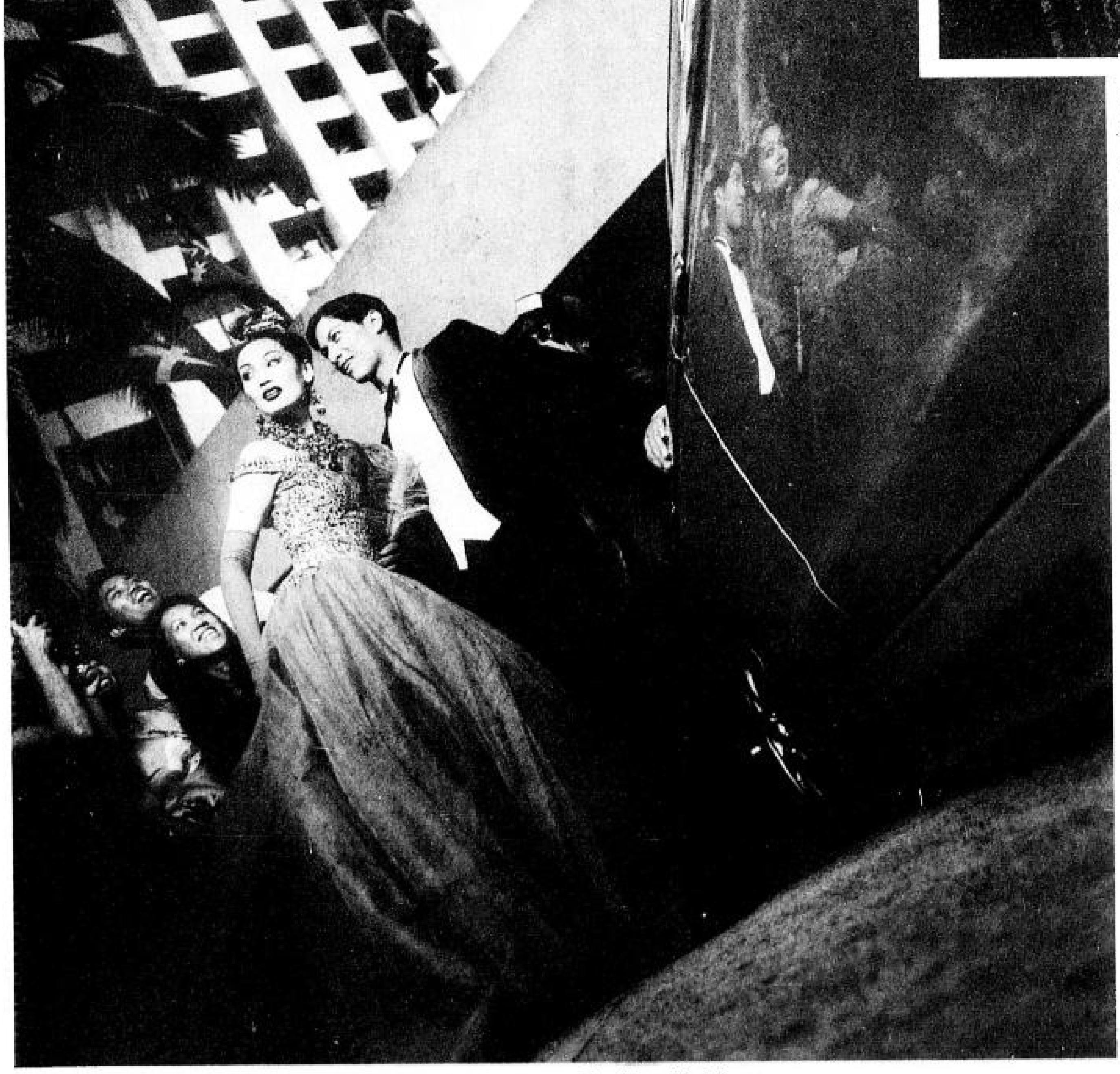
Last Monday Peralta presented a 60-piece collection in "The Making of a Musical Masterpiece" at the NBC Tent. To launch its new mobile phones, Samsung had a tie-up with Peralta and a symphony orchestra. The designer showed his trademark slinky gowns, drapery, beadwork, skin-baring styles, clothes with optical illusions and fiberglass corsets. Fashion watchers that night said the garments were predictably badly cut, among other things.

Peralta's show is incomplete without male models in transparent clothes and barely-there swimwear—but with kimonos—for a little modesty, of course.

Well, at least, the male models were not bad looking, observers remarked.



AMBUSH interview. He's in a Mao suit and she's in a Grecian halter gown in lamé.



ESCAPING into a Jaguar. She's in a fully beaded corded lace gown with tulle and he's in a tux.

MODELS:
LUCIA SANTIAGO,
GARY DULATAS

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When photography and intimacy meld

Uniquely and intensely personal, the photographs of Petter Hegre stun and disturb

REVIEW

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By Cherish Garcia-Hernandez
Contributor

NORWEGIAN photographer Petter Hegre rocked the international photography community with the publication of his first book, "My Wife." It contained a series of photographs of his wife that were described as "scarily intimate." Like most trailblazers, Hegre's audacity dared to take the comfort level of erotic photography a step further by choosing his own wife as a subject. The results were shocking visuals that produced a myriad of reactions ranging from condemnation to admiration. The book became a best-selling sensation worldwide and brought Hegre to the fore, winning awards and being featured in major news networks like BBC and CNN.

Petter Hegre studied photography at the Brooks Institute of Photography in California. He has worked as an assistant to Richard Avedon in New York and has since done the photography for numerous advertising campaigns and metal album covers, some of which are featured in the book. His work is also featured in the permanent collection of Norway's museum of photography.

Net route

For "My Book," which was published on a very limited scale, Hegre has chosen to go the Internet route. Because of the limitless boundaries of the Internet, Hegre has even taken his work a step further. Aside from being able to view 44 "spiral bound" pages of the book's photographs on the site, he has included an "archives" section featuring over 6,000 images updated daily. However, the "archives" are only accessible by subscription so you have to pay to see them.

"My Book," which is available for viewing for free, offers stunningly explicit images (make a link to www.hegre-archives.com). This is not cliché nude photography. His photographs have the grace and irony that only the most intelligent of photographers can achieve. They are not for the faint-hearted and some are downright disturbing. The flesh itself is not disconcerting—it is the way it is presented and the connotations they invoke.

His use of light and color are excellent and he can easily shift from muted black-and-white photographs to bubble gum-pink, '50s style pictures with equal mastery. According to Petter Hegre, "photography is about being personal." His philosophy is clearly achieved through his work.

Everyone does not easily embrace this kind of honesty, though. Even if society seems so jaded with the sensory overload of reality television, there is something always disturbing about nudity, maybe because it presents us with an image of ourselves without the trappings that we all hide behind. But the ability to see things from a different perspective and to think out of the box is something that works like this communicate.

Interactive

The "book" is meant to be interactive with the mouse being able to virtually turn the pages. It is presented in its original form so the photographs are viewed the way they would be if one had the actual book. So instead of seeing photographs that fill up the whole computer screen, one sees the open page with the spirals in the middle. There are little icons on top of each page that you can click on and a description or vignette about the picture you are viewing appears.

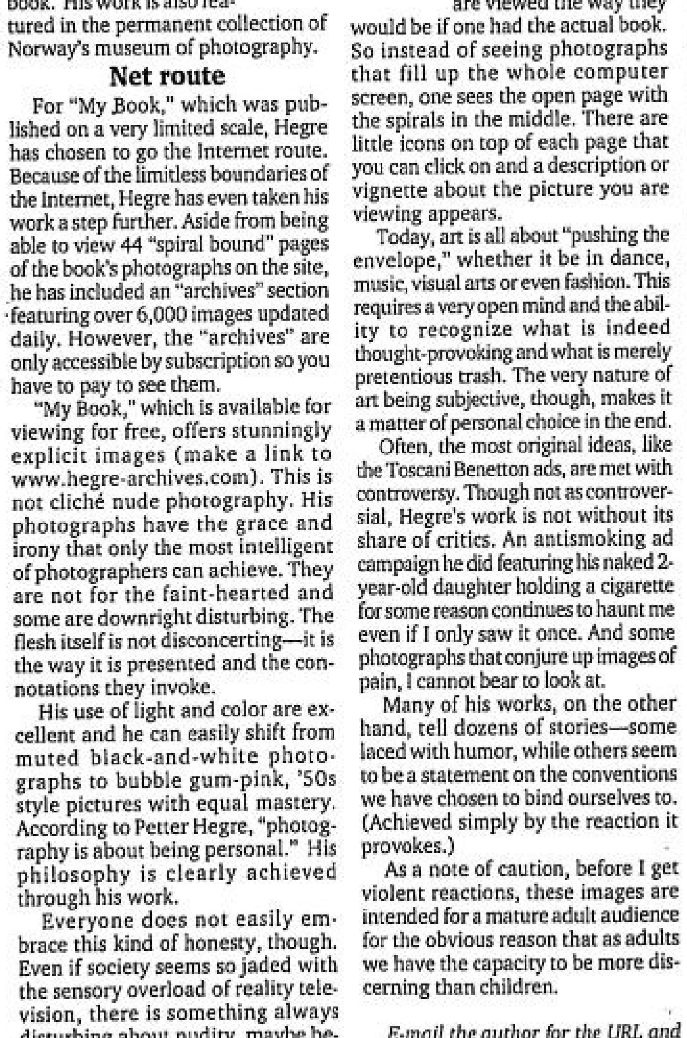
Today, art is all about "pushing the envelope," whether it be in dance, music, visual arts or even fashion. This requires a very open mind and the ability to recognize what is indeed thought-provoking and what is merely pretentious trash. The very nature of art being subjective, though, makes it a matter of personal choice in the end.

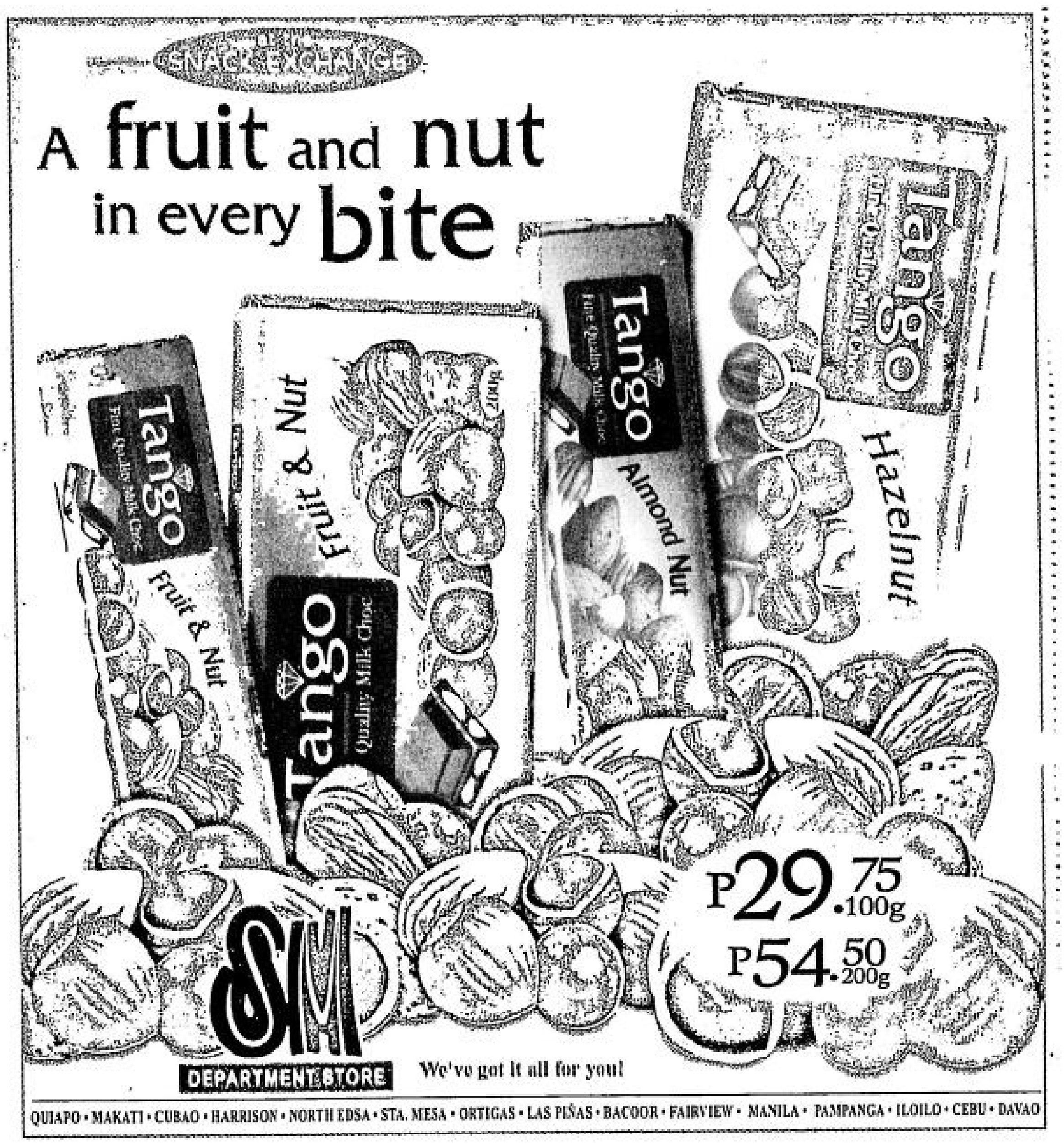
Often, the most original ideas, like the Toscani Benetton ads, are met with controversy. Though not as controversial, Hegre's work is not without its share of critics. An antismoking ad campaign he did featuring his naked 2-year-old daughter holding a cigarette for some reason continues to haunt me even if I only saw it once. And some photographs that conjure up images of pain, I cannot bear to look at.

Many of his works, on the other hand, tell dozens of stories—some laced with humor, while others seem to be a statement on the conventions we have chosen to bind ourselves to. (Achieved simply by the reaction it provokes.)

As a note of caution, before I get violent reactions, these images are intended for a mature adult audience for the obvious reason that as adults we have the capacity to be more discerning than children.

E-mail the author for the URL and other comments at cherishgh@yahoo.com





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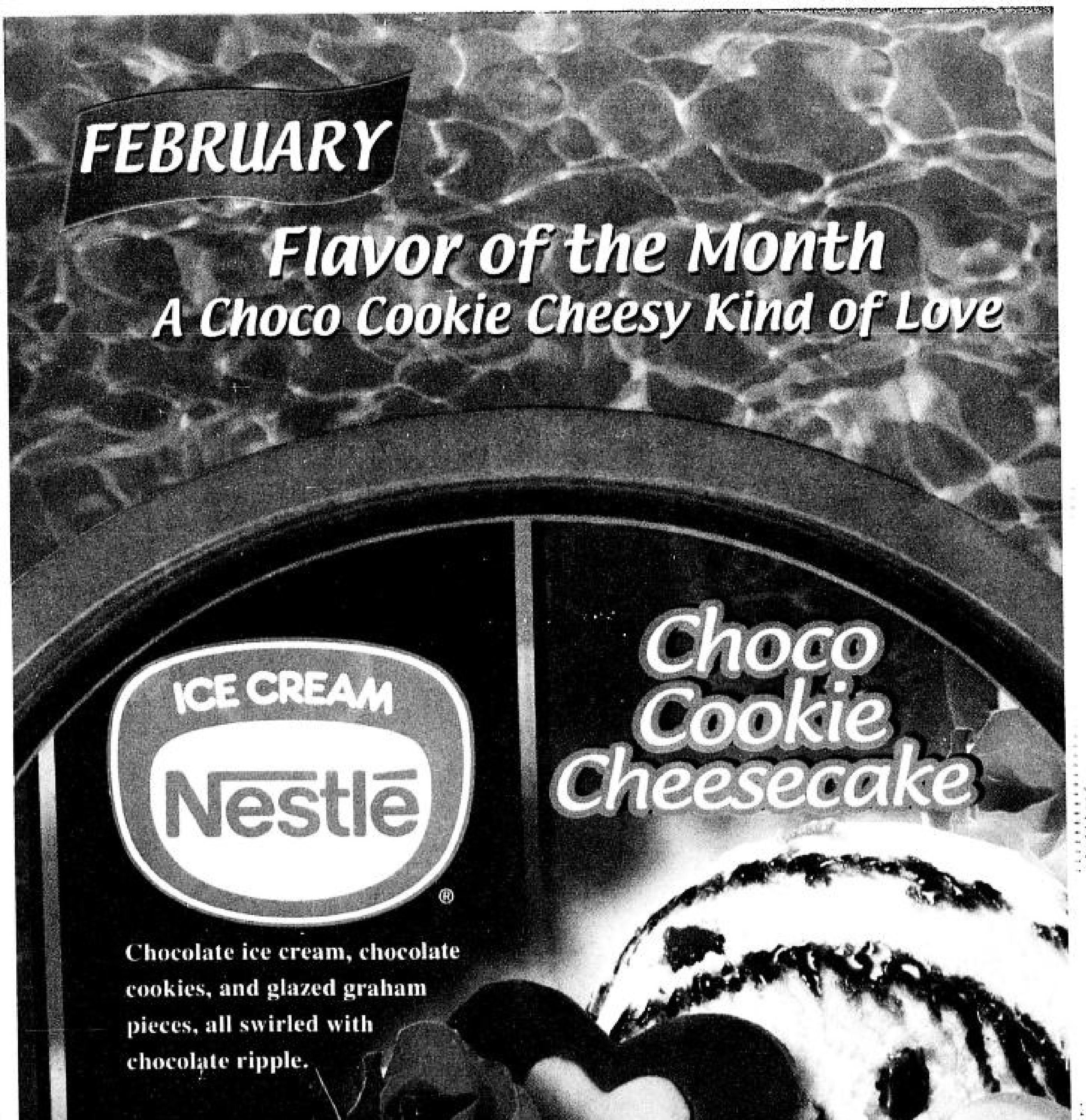
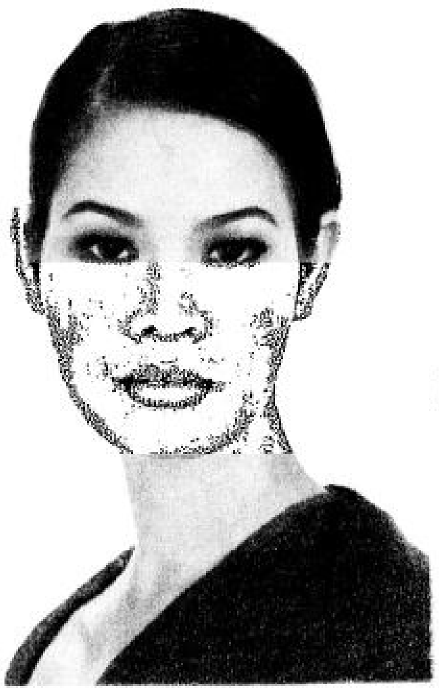


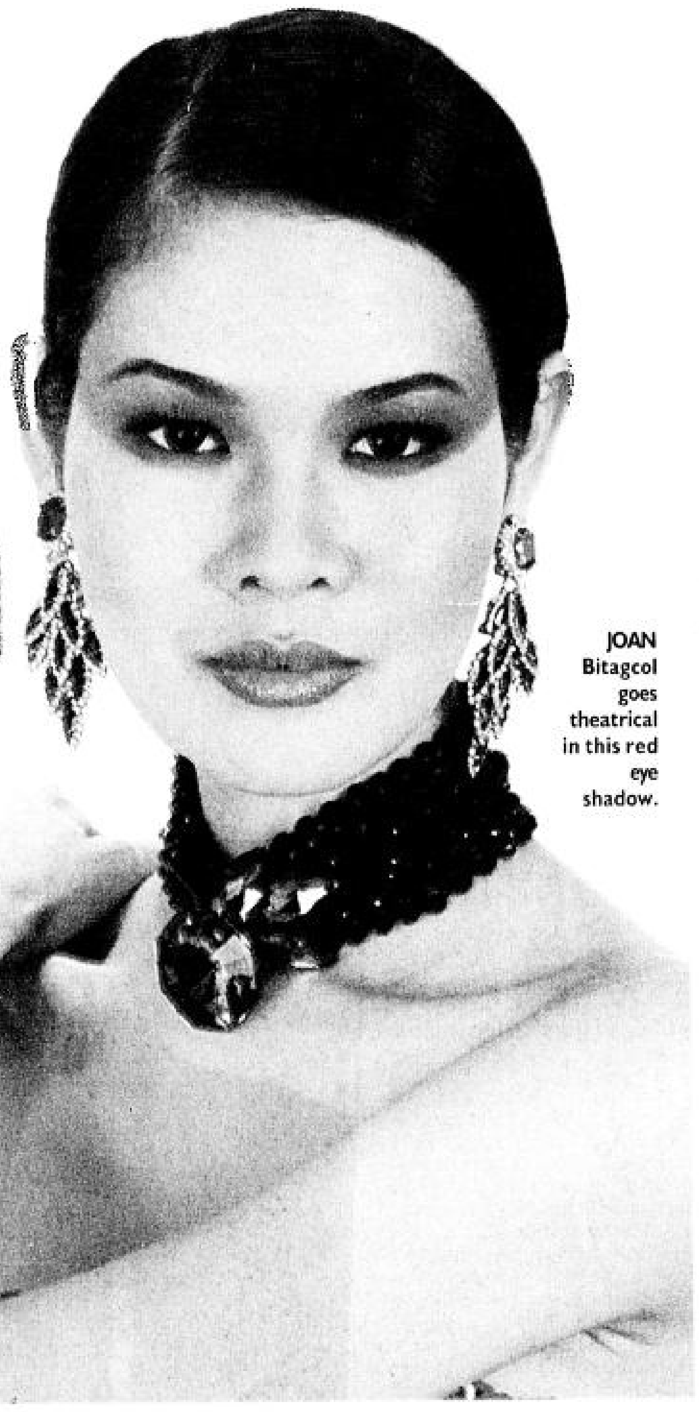
FEBRUARY
Flavor of the Month
A Choco Cookie Cheesy Kind of Love
Choco Cookie Cheesecake
Chocolate ice cream, chocolate cookies, and glazed graham pieces, all swirled with chocolate ripple.

Put on that Valentine *face*

Photos by Bobot Meru
PICTORIAL DIRECTION BY ANTONIO SALAC SANTOS

DEPENDING on your mood, V-day makeup can be anywhere from natural to over-the-top. Avon offers several possibilities, such as Chinese opera eyes or smoky lids. The most important item is the foundation. For this shoot, Avon flew in from New York a liquid foundation called Beyond Color that gives the skin a lift.

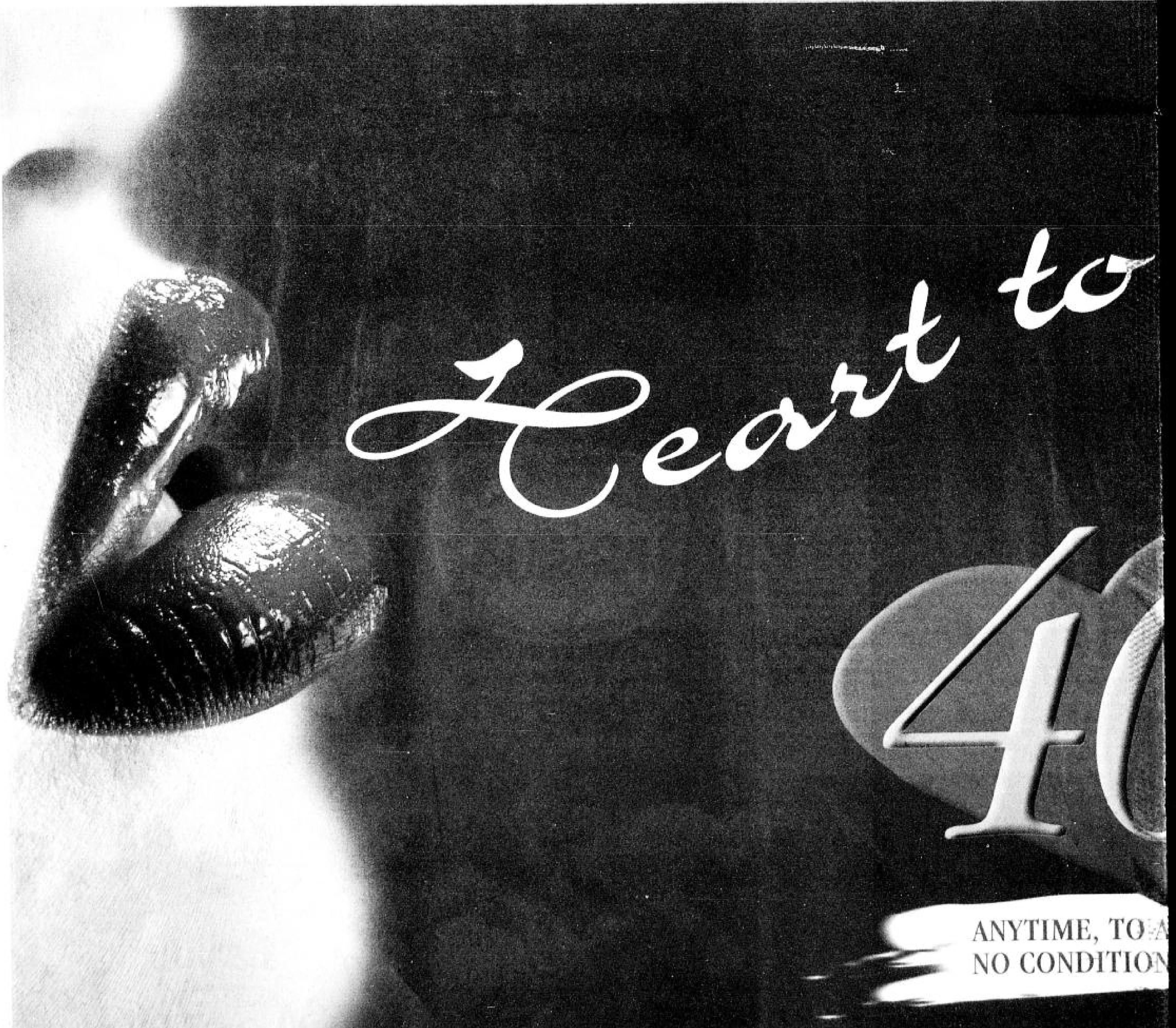

JOAN in warm tones that go with texture of knits.


JOAN Bitagcol goes theatrical in this red eye shadow.

HAIR AND MAKEUP BY
ERIC MANINGAT
WITH MARLON SUAREZ
NERY MATIAS AND EVELYN GINO
OF AVON

ANNETTE Coronel-Cruz goes for dark eyes and glossy lips.

ISABEL Roces in a barely-there look



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PIAGET IN ASIA

Polished to a new sheen

The venerable European jewelry house enters Rustan's Silver Vault, a sign that the luxury goods market remains bullish about Asia and the Philippines

By Donnie C. Ramirez
Contributor

LUXURY is not holding back in tough times. "We are bullish and very optimistic about the potentials of Piaget in Asia," Dimitri Gouten says at the launch of Piaget Jewellery at Rustan's Silver Vault in Makati. The 33-year-old Frenchman is the managing director of Piaget Asia-Pacific who oversees the operation of the 128-year-old company for the whole of Asia and the Pacific region, except Japan.

"We see tremendous growth potentials in Asia because there are many countries we haven't fully tapped. China, we feel, is tomorrow's market. And then there is Taiwan, South Korea and now, the Philippines," adds Gouten, who began his career with the Richemont Luxury Group when he joined Cartier London in 1991. After two years he moved to the Cartier head office in Paris. He was shortly named sales manager of Cartier Far East.

Homecoming

The Hong Kong assignment was a homecoming for Gouten. He spent four of his secondary school years at the French International School in the former British colony. Throughout his professional career, which took him to major European cities, Gouten was never out of touch with Asia. He traveled extensively in the region until 1999 when he moved to Sao Paolo as managing director of Cartier Brazil.

Gouten's strong international background and solid experience in Asia more than qualify him for the awesome task of overseeing Piaget's big expansion program in the Far East. He is well-versed with the cultural diversity of the region. That he is married to a lovely Chinese lady is a plus.

"She's helping me learn to speak Chinese," says Gouten, who is fluent in French, English, Spanish and Portuguese.

Gouten, who flew in from Piaget's regional headquarters in Hong Kong, brought with him more than 20 exceptional pieces of jewelry from Geneva. Each is studded with a minimum 10-karat diamonds and other precious stones. The estimated value of the pieces, according to Gouten, is $5 million.

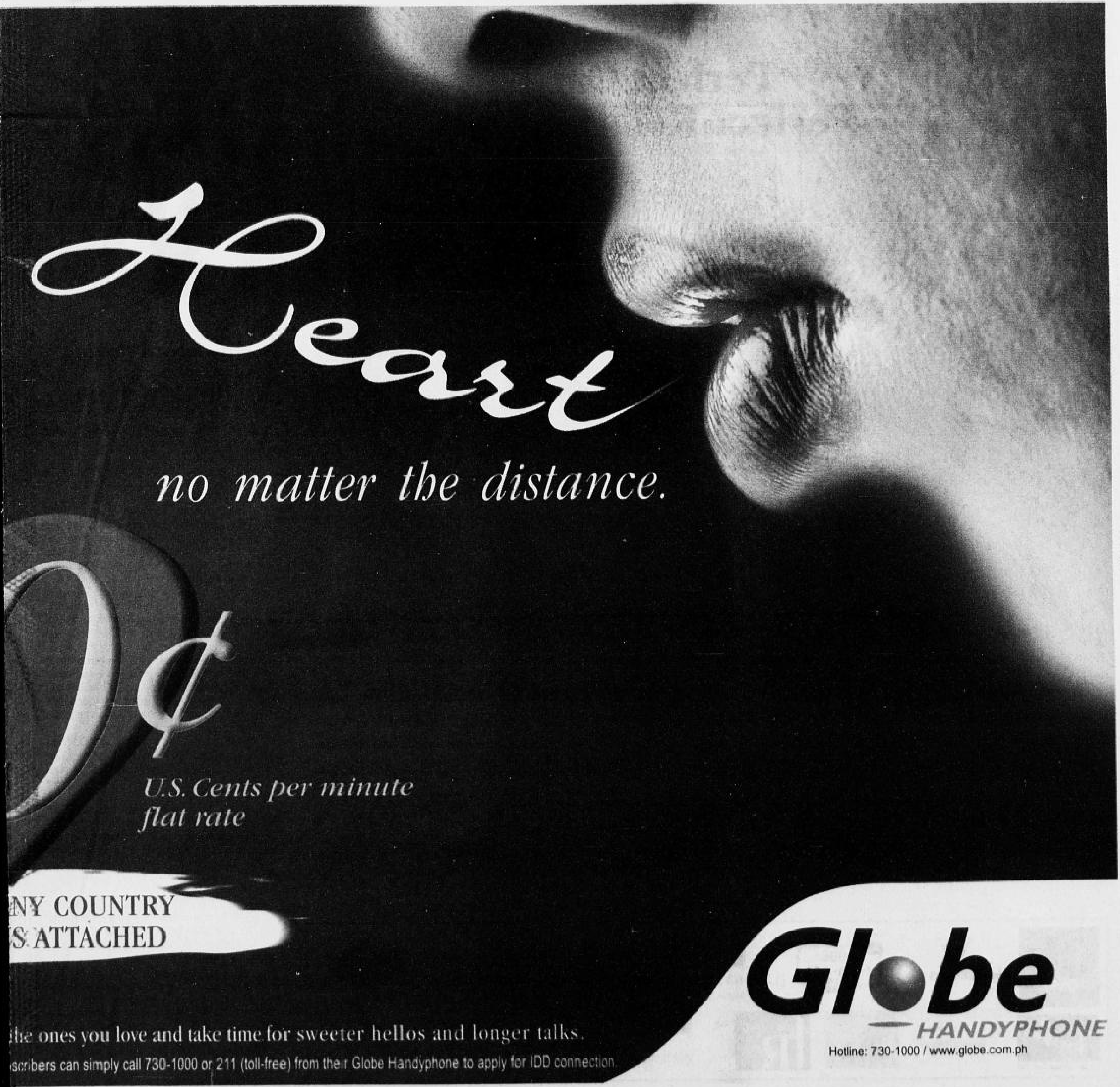
Exceptional

Among the exceptional pieces exhibited were Piaget's Dancer Collection, which draws inspiration from the fluid and graceful movements of a dancer. The collection consists of rings, pendants and bracelets with innovative designs utilizing generously sized bands of gold. The distinctive feature of the Dancer pieces is the ingot which, in the ring, rests on the band. Diamonds serve as the final embellishment, giving the pieces added glitter.

The Piaget Magic Garden Collection pays tribute to nature. Unmistakably feminine in their floral design, the pieces are executed in white gold and diamond.

Also launched were Piaget's Possession wedding bands, coming right in time for the busy wedding month of June. To allow each couple to slip on the ring that reflects their personal feelings, the Possession wedding bands come in three different aesthetic variations: classical, flat and hexagonal. Slender or broad, each line in white or yellow gold features four different versions for the groom and bride. Couples who go for sheer purity can get a simple ring, while those wishing to add sparkling touch can choose from models set with diamonds.

Bienvenido "Rico" Tantoco Jr., president and managing director of Rustan's Commercial Corp., welcomed Piaget to Rustan's Silver Vault. "By exploring new horizons, Piaget asserts its resolutely contemporary nature in each of the pieces shown here. Created to be worn free from rules and constraints, each piece naturally adopts to the personality of the one who wears it," he said.



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Create the ultimate 2002 calendar for your Valentine. You can use your own photo collection to personalize each month by importing the photos into your PC using a digital camera or scanner. With today's high-powered Intel Pentium processor-based PCs, you can quickly apply special effects, such as titles, different finishes and decorations to your digital photos.

Create your Valentine's Day cards on the PC. The Web offers a range of free, downloadable images, or you can customize your cards by using a scanner or digital camera to import your own photos into your PC. Then, with today's affordable and easy-to-use software packages you can use existing templates for easy card creation. A PC with a high-powered processor allows you to enhance your card with some additional decoration, such as quickly and easily applying special effects, viewing different finishes and romantic touches. You can print out your cards with today's affordable color printers, or distribute your cards electronically through e-mail or the old-fashioned way—through the mail—on CD/DVD.

You can listen to your favorite love songs on your PC by playing music CDs in your PC's CD-ROM drive. You can also download your favorite love songs off the Internet to create the ultimate Valentine's Day gift. Start with a powerful PC and CD-ROM (CD-ROM writer that writes to CDs) then select your favorite songs from your CD collection, download them on your hard drive and then use your CD-ROM to "burn" or copy the songs onto a CD/DVD or your PC's hard drive. The latest processors for PCs, such as the Intel Pentium 4 processor, offer a major boost to getting music off the Internet, creating music or even transferring music to portable devices. Some sites that might be useful in creating a personalized collection of love songs include: http://www.pinoymp3.dk3.com; http://www.crosswinds.net/~mp3pilipinas.

Looking for ways to show your loved one how much you care? Send a Valentine's Day e-card each hour. Check out the following websites for a wide array of e-cards sure to capture your Valentine's attention and heart: www.hallmark.com; www.bluemountain.com; www.yehey.com.

Do you need to send a gift to that special someone on Valentine's Day but have not had the time to go shopping? A PC at your fingertips makes life easier. Check out the following online shopping sites to find the perfect gift that says "I love you": www.myayala.com; www.estore.com; www.e2door.com; www.22ban.com.

How about a romantic dinner for two? The perfect date is just a few keystrokes away with help from the following online sites that offer tips on the best restaurants to take your loved one to on Valentine's Day: www.getasia.com; www.pinoycentral com.

When choosing a computer, start with the "brains" of your PC—the microprocessor. With an Intel microprocessor inside your computer, you're guaranteed exceptional performance, quality and reliability. The latest Intel Pentium 4 processor delivers the power needed for amazing digital audio, video and imaging that makes creating homemade holiday gifts on your PC more fun and entertaining.

Tell him you care

WHO said that flowers are a "girl thing"? Send him Sonata Floral Masterpieces, a unique line of blue flowers such as Holland roses and tulips. It's a great way of telling him how special he is. Pictures of arrangements ordered can be sent in case you don't get to see your order when you place it (48-72 hours after delivery). Call 671-5222 or visit Sonata at the G/F, Rodil Building, 326 Henry Javier St., Pasig City, a few meters away from the Valle Verde Country Club.

Bring good things to your loved ones

VALENTINE'S Day is not just about giving gifts; it's also about sharing quality moments with the ones you hold dear.

Enjoy a simple Valentine's Day with your family by preparing a special meal that your family will enjoy.

Afterward, spend that quality time watching great family movies with your home theater system that includes the Philips Real Flat TV, with the Double Window PIP feature. The family can enjoy watching two different programs at the same time.

For great music and even greater movies, the Philips' FW-D1 mini hi-fi system with Integrated DVD player lets you have total control of both audio and video with the Movie and Sound Navigation Control.

Set the mood by playing romantic tunes from Miles Davis, Louis Armstrong and other favorite artists on a good micro hi-fi system like the Philips MC-55, with the Incredible Surround and Dynamic Bass Boost to heighten the listening experience.

The MC-55 also comes ready for VCD playback so you can watch romantic movies like "Sleepless in Seattle" and "Only You" on your Philips Real Flat TV and fall in love all over again.

Singles shouldn't shun celebrating Valentine's Day. Why don't you invite your gal pals over for a merrymaking? Dance with the girls to fun disco tunes with the Philips FW-V720 mini hi-fi system, with the revolutionary wOOx technology for outstanding bass reproduction.

Afterward, put on chick flicks on the FW-V720's VCD player, which is packed with the full set of VCD features. Cozy up in front of your Philips Real Flat TV and enjoy "girl power" movies like "My Best Friend's Wedding," "Thelma and Louise" and "Beaches."

Celebrate Valentine's Day with a picnic lunch with your family or loved one. Spread out your specially prepared meal, and enjoy a quiet moment or two with your honey. And make sure you don't forget to take along Philips portable AZ1008. Play your favorite CDs and tapes while savoring each other's company and communing with nature.

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The most uniquely lovely woman with a heart so pure, There's nobody like you, nobody yes, I assure,
and all your life long you're going to know that there is someone, Who loves you as he never has loved anyone,
For this end let it be known to everyone, That you are and always shall be my Valentine till the end of time.

Nestor & Ising won these exciting Valentine treats from Wave 89.1

Limousine Service for 1 whole day
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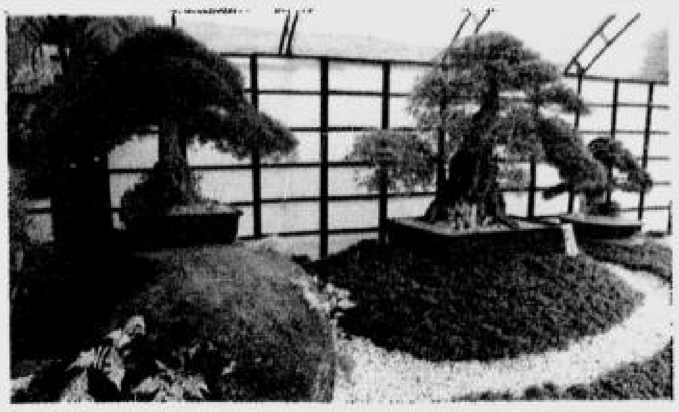
POTTED azalea from Baguio and rare ornamental garden plants

PHOTOS: JOHNNY VILLENA



BONSAI master Mody Manglicmot's prize-winning dwarf trees: a 50-year-old Tagaytay cherry tree and a 40-year-old *callos* species

Horticulture show posts many firsts

By Tita V. Giron

A SHOW of shows. That was how members of the Philippine Horticulture Society (PHS) crowed about their 25th anniversary held at the Manila Seedling Bank.

We don't begrudge the members for being smug about their show. They had good reasons to boast. In the exhibit and commercial areas, aside from rarely seen plants, were unbelievable specimens seen for the first time in local garden shows—plant mutants, new hybrids, exotic tropical birds, ornamental rocks and stones, Zen fountains and *waling-waling* orchids blooming out of season.

In the incredible collection, for example, were huge anthuriums and *Asparagus meyerii* that reminded one of the land of the giants. They were pleasant surprises to garden folks who were used to the potted garden varieties. When we asked owner PJ Nepomuceno how much his rare plants were worth, he bragged it was priceless. Nepomuceno cochaired the show with Dory Bernabe.

The variegated bird's nest ferns were even rarer. Instead of the normal solid green color, the leaves wore yellowish splashes. We were told that in the wilds, the chance to see the mutants was one in a million.

Support

The garden event was more than a show of beautiful plants and landscape. It was about supporting and bringing together again various garden clubs from all over the country. It had been many years since the United Garden Clubs of the Philippines, now inactive, had clubs from all over the country joining its popular garden shows.

At the show this year were gardeners and horticulture clubs from Davao, Bacolod, General Santos, Cotabato, Palawan, Pangasinan, Cagayan, Ilocos, Baguio, Bicol, Quezon and Laguna. They brought their plants and garden accessories to the show by all modes of transportation.

But it was well worth the trouble and expenses for many of them, particularly for Rene and Doreen Dofitas of Bacolod who exhibited and sold their home-bred *Bromeliad tillandsias*.

The couple shipped a big haul of their unusual plants to Manila and went home with empty containers. To this day, members of the horticulture society are still talking about how the *Dofitas tillandsias* sold like hotcakes at the show.

We hardly expected other provincial participants to upstage the showy exhibits Metro Manila gardeners are known for. But Baguio's King Louis broke precedent by winning the blue ribbon as best landscape in the guest exhibitors category.

For the centerpiece, King Louis in-house landscaper Francis Gener had an Ifugao hut surrounded by a merry mix of flowering plants, jars carved from Pinatubo rocks, vegetables and bantam chickens. Showcased were the company's blooming cymbidium orchids, freesias, mini azaleas, impatiens and hydrangeas. If the flower company's award-winning garden landscape was anything to go by, we're almost sure it will again run away with trophies at the forthcoming flower parade in Baguio City.

Taking charge

Davao's Puentespina Orchids and Malagos Garden Resort also stole the show. For the first time, the Puentespina sons—Dr. Bo, Angel and Rex—took charge of the garden exhibit. They went overboard this time. In addition to the usual orchids and fruits from their farms, the boys also showcased exotic pet birds, all products of Dr. Bo's breeding program at the Malagos Bird Park.

There were colorful mallard ducks and several varieties of pheasants and guinea fowls. By the way, the Puentespinas opened their new garden nursery and store at Manila Seedling Bank.

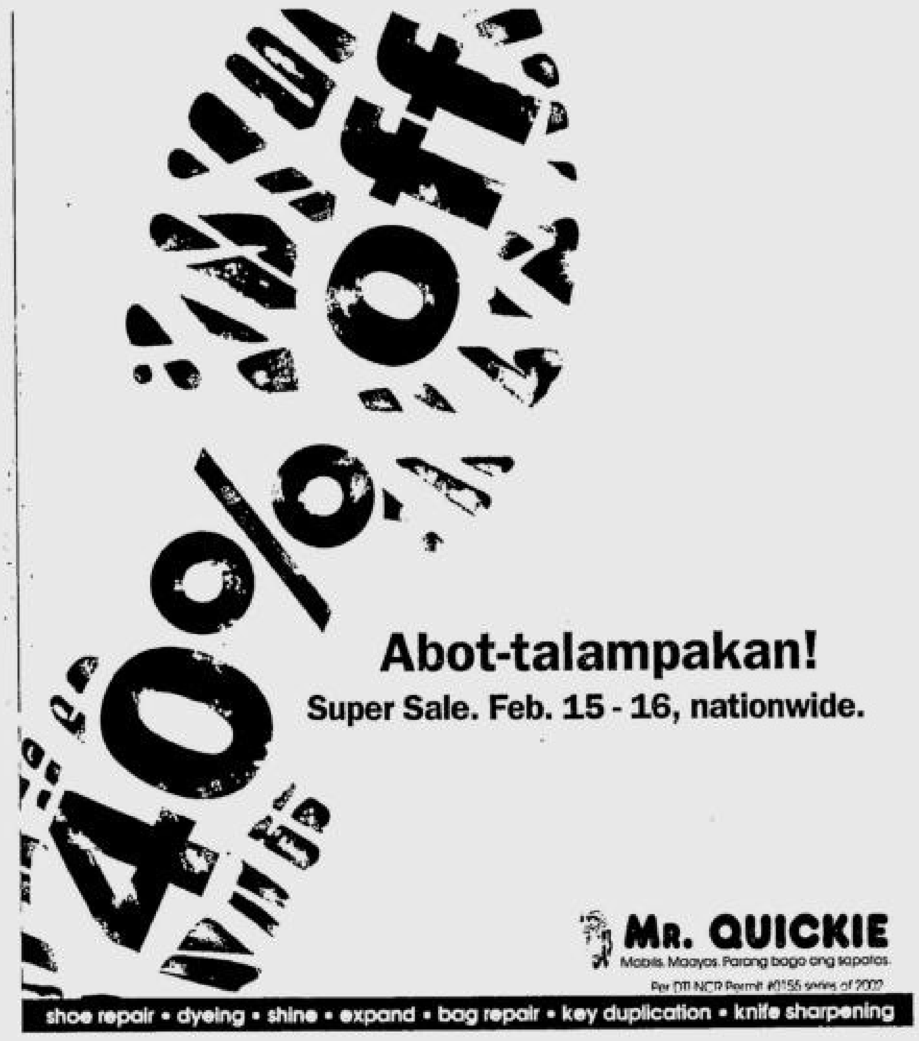
It was a rare occasion to find a wide range of gardening needs all in one place. In addition to the plants, there were many gardening and landscaping supplies available for the first time. Also at the site were two leading distributors of seeds and garden tools—Ramgo and Harbest.

All told, it can be said that the PHS has come of age. Will other succeeding garden shows overshadow the latest PHS extravaganza? In the calendar of gardening events for first quarter of the year are shows organized by the following: Fairview Garden Club, Las Piñas Garden Club, Ikebana-Ikenobo, Bonsai Society, Philippine Orchid Society, Cebu Bonsai Club and the Los Baños Orchid Society.

E-mail the author at mariettagiron@hotmail.com

> It displayed unbelievable specimens, some of them never before seen

KING Louis flower farm wins best garden landscape with Ifugao hut as focal point. Landscape artist Francis Gener showcases garden varieties of impatiens, kalanchoe, hydrangeas and azaleas.



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COSMOS grown by Purificacion

Passion in a leaf, love in a flower

Roses still dominate V-day gift-giving. But other alternatives are cropping up

A FEW years ago, Valentine's Day was always associated with long-stemmed roses only. But because people are now more practical and economical, things are different, according to commercial plant grower and trader Cora Purificacion of Purificacion Orchids and Ornamentals Inc. Although cut-flower roses are still popular among ultra-romantics, potted commercial plants and flowers have become popular. These potted gifts are longer-lasting than cut flowers.

Roses are still pópular. Miniature roses in a variety of colors planted on small ceramic and glazed clay pots are in demand, Cora says. The mini roses bloom profusely all year round; they bear flowers even when they are still young. Mini roses are easy to grow and care for. Just water them daily and put them under full sun or partial shade. Feed them with any plant food and they will grow happily in the garden. They are disease-resistant and come in many exciting shades of red, yellow, orange and white.

Cora says that the mini roses are inexpensive and they will remind the receiver of the giver not only for a few days but as long as the roses thrive and bloom in the garden.

Herbal gifts

Herb plants such as basil, mint, *oregano* and parsley are beautiful, fragrant and dainty leafed. In Europe, these are given traditionally as gifts of love. A basket full of these sweet smelling herbs will make a practical and romantic gift, especially to those who love to cook. Potted herb plants are easy to grow, too. They need very little care, Cora says. Daily watering and occasional fertilizing will be enough. These herbs can be placed on windows to catch the morning or afternoon sunshine. They can also be planted near the kitchen for easy reach when cooking.

Other suitable Valentine gifts are the *tillandsias*. These are unique plants that can be grown on a wire basket or attached to a fern slab or driftwood. They need very little water and practically no fertilizer. This type of bromeliad can be grown under shade and can be put indoors occasionally. Many species of *tillandsia* have very beautiful, long-lasting blooms.

Impatiens is also an attractive gift for Valentine. The waxy-bright colors of the flower contrast very well with the glossy dark green leaves.

Next to roses, the chrysanthemum is also very expressive. The colorful blooms convey messages of love, Cora says. Red tells of one's passion, pink of young love; white, pure intention; lavender, how much the would-be recipient has been missed; yellow, jealousy; peach or beige, hope; and reddish-brown, loyalty.

Potted mums are also a favorite in many other occasions because their blooms last very long. The plants can be grown further after blooming and are sturdy. Unlike roses that must be purchased one day before or during Valentine's Day, mums can be bought earlier and still be in perfect shape on the day of lovers.

The Purificacion Orchids and Ornamentals Inc. has outlets at the Manila Seedling Bank Foundation on Quezon Avenue, SM Fairview, SM City-North Edsa, SM Megamall and SM Superstore in San Fernando, Pampanga.

Stop and smell like a flower

AS we get lost in the mad rush, we forget to take a moment to relax and smell the roses. If that's exactly what you're craving for, you need not go to some secret garden. Just spray on Herbench's newest scent and you'd experience the lushness and freshness of exotic wildflowers.

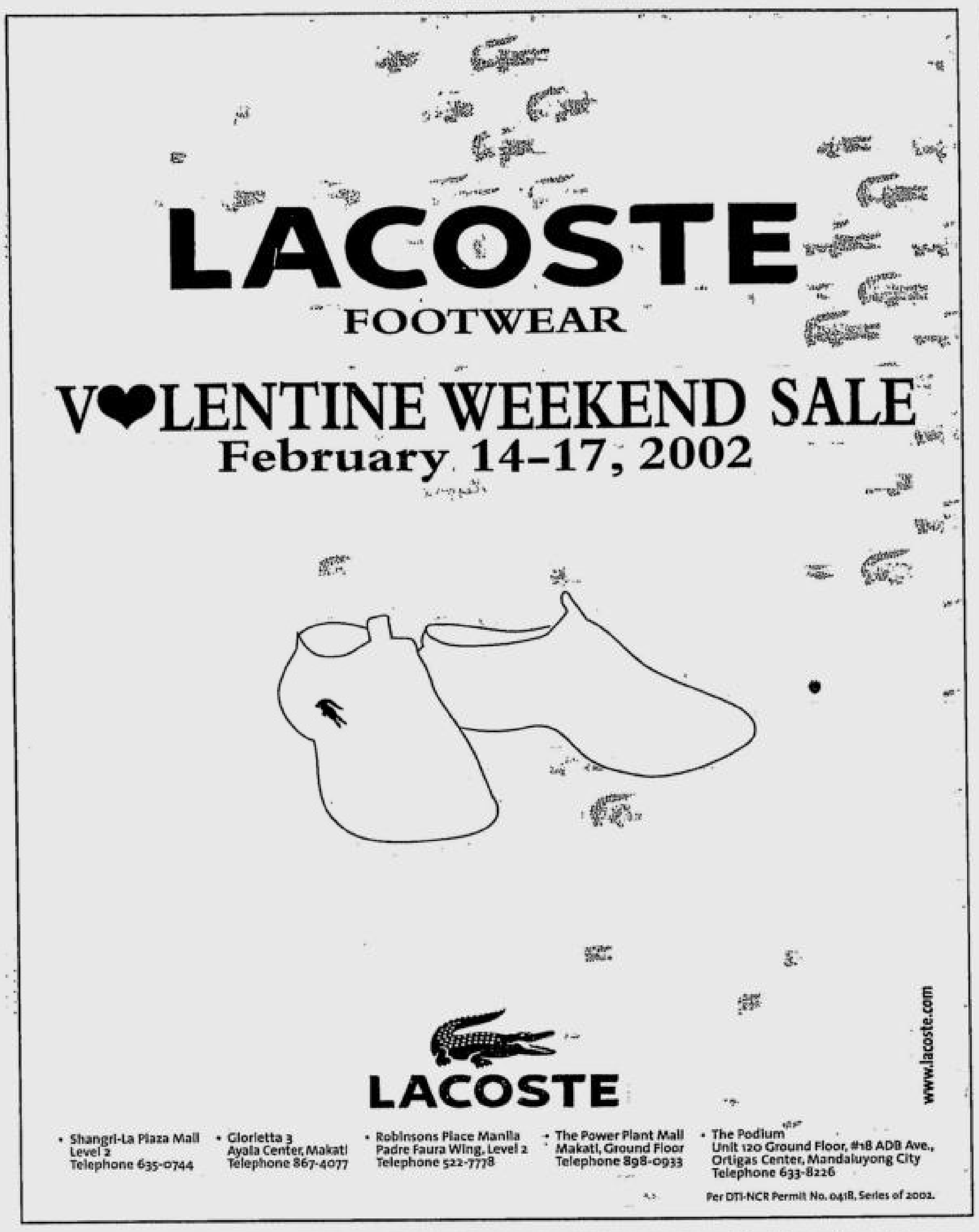
From the serenity of daffodils, the gaiety of white daisies, the vibrance of water lily to the excitement of freesia, each scent exudes a springtime scent that relaxes and captivates the senses.

Breeze through the day with the Wildflowers scent collection—Daffodil Fields (green), Fresh Freesia (blue), Waterlily Pear (pink) and White Daisies (violet).

Daffodil Fields gives off the aroma of sweet flowers pressed on an old notebook of forgotten love letters. Fresh Freesia radiates the scent of wild frolics on the sea, or the undeniable zest for the pouring rain. Waterlily Pear keeps the fragrance of butterflies with their harvest of nectar on dreamy summer afternoons. White Daisies carries the scent of dewdrops, a sweet fragrance against one's skin come dusk or dawn.

Herbench Wildflowers is available at all Bench and Herbench stores.

HERBENCH Wildflowers is a collection of colorful range of sprays which are appealingly sweet. Available in four variants: Daffodil Fields (Green), Fresh Freesia (Blue), Waterlily Pear (Pink) and White Daisies (Violet).



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Valentine's Day

Apple Fontanilla *Account Manager*
sprojects@inquirer.com.ph
Aries Espinosa *Editor*

Love in the Internet: Is it for real?

By Joel V. Nigos

MAN is a social animal. But more than being a social animal, man is also a creation that needs to be loved, and someone or something to love.

With the advent of information technology, humans have found new ways of interacting with its fellow specie. The great Word Wide Web has opened new doors to get to know new people from wherever in the world. Indeed, the world has become a global village, and cyberspace is the hatchery of lonely souls' e-romances.

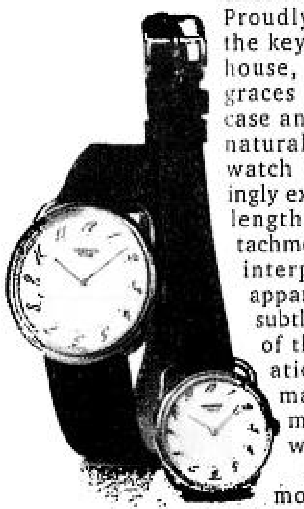
I heard the story of Angie, a secretary in a major publication who had sworn off romance for 10 years only to find her right man, John Robert Wheeler, half a world away in Louisiana, through the Internet. It was when she submitted her profile to the American Single Website and John was one of the five who responded. After the getting-to-know each other stage, in person of course, and not just through exchanging e-mails or photos or phone calls, they got married. They now live in United States after the secretary resigned from her work here.

There's also the story of a newspaper editor named Raul who logged on to the Internet on New Year's Eve of 1998 in search of a companion. It so happened that when Raul logged on to the Web, so was Yvonne, a banking executive. They were drawn to each other because of their common interests. They soon got married more than two years

LOVE/G6

Celebrate the day with Hermés Watches

VALENTINE'S Day is a time for celebration of loved ones, and Hermés offers his and hers watches for the discerning customer.



Signature piece H-our is the epitome of class and elegance. Proudly posing as the keynote of the house, the "H" graces the watch case and blends in naturally with the watch as it seemingly extends to the length of the attachment. It is the interplay of the apparent and the subtle emergence of this emblematic letter that make the magic of this watch.

Another model rests more on graphic simplicity. Faithful to the house's roots. Arceau is shaped to resemble a stirrup. Classic, timeless and devoid of ostentation, this watch truly reflects the Hermés style. The playfully sloping numerals on the dial exemplify Hermés' humorous touch in the design work.

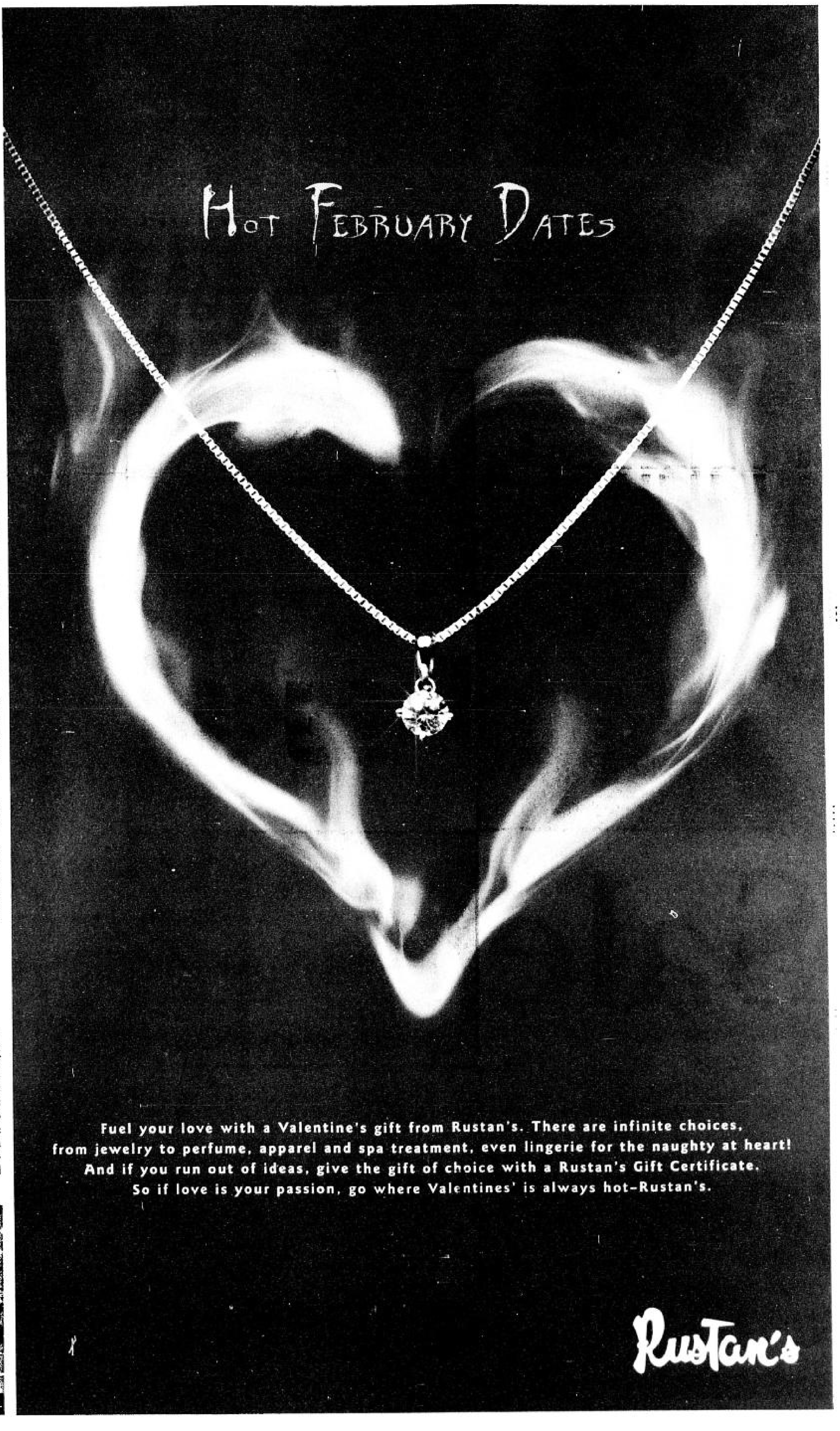
Inspired by a vintage 1950s model by Hermés, Harnais is the French word for "harness". True to its name, this model is reminiscent of a very important part of the harness – the back band – to which a plaque bearing the coat-of-arms of the horse's owner used to be fixed. Harnais – an inherited tradition.

All three models are available in gent's, medium and lady's sizes. H-our Arceau also come in leather straps and distinctive bracelets.

The Hermés name speaks volumes for enduring design and unmatched quality. An Hermés timepiece is just the right instrument to bear witness to the timelessness of it all. For inquiries, call Cheryl Cadeliña of Emporium Gallery Corp. at 817-5634.

Valentine's Day at San Yang

WITH boxes of Tikoy displayed at its entrance, the San Yang Chinese Restaurant welcomes Dragon Dancers on the eve of the Chinese New Year. The restaurant has been giving away free tikoy to customers with a minimum purchase of P300 as its reopening promo which will last up to Feb. 17. Popular for its authentic Chinese cuisine at very affordable prices, San Yang opened after two weeks of renovation in time for the Chinese New Year and Valentine's Day celebrations.



Fuel your love with a Valentine's gift from Rustan's. There are infinite choices, from jewelry to perfume, apparel and spa treatment, even lingerie for the naughty at heart! And if you run out of ideas, give the gift of choice with a Rustan's Gift Certificate. So if love is your passion, go where Valentines' is always hot–Rustan's.

Rustan's

SHORT TIME, ANYONE?

The popularity of motels

ROMANCE is in the air today as many couples head straight to motels, the popular venue of lovers, that experience a surge in visitors during this season.

A survey of the amenities found in some of the rooms offered by Victoria Court, a motel which caters to the AB market in Malate, suggests very intimate and private moments a couple can enjoy. Candle light dinner, relaxing drinks, hushed conversations—is a luxury for couples who desperately want to get away for a while from the din and clamor of work and family.

Which is why motels are popular destination of lovers not only during today's occasion but also on other occasions too. Jet Nera, property general manager at Victoria Court, says his motels have high occupancy rates during holidays, paydays and Fridays and Saturdays. This, he says, reflects the celebratory mood of Filipinos who want to spend an important day with a loved one.

He also says motels, even if they carry an unfavorable connotation, are popular because they're affordable compared to a hotel. And some motels, such as Victoria Court, offer the same amenities a hotel offers such as big and modern rooms, queen-size beds and large pillows, steam baths, Jacuzzis, 27-inch TVs, personal refs and bars, and clean surroundings.

Nera says a motel's difference from a hotel or other lodging business is that it offers an individual garage per room and it doesn't have function rooms or public areas such as restaurants or a gym.

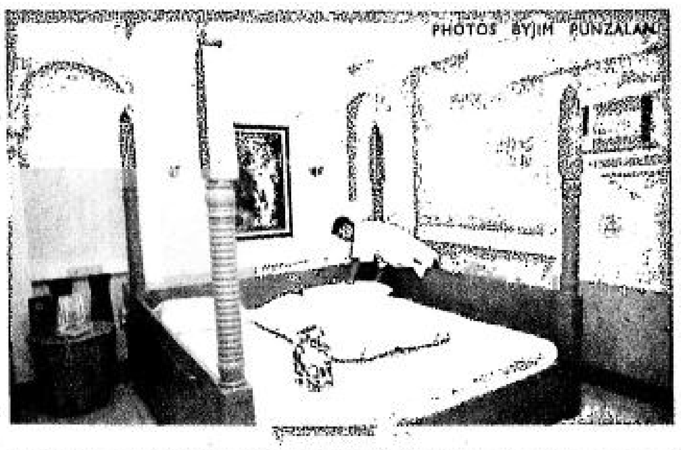
"Motel rates are competitive and the advantage is that there's no cut-off period. Customers enjoy the actual hours—12 or 24 hours."

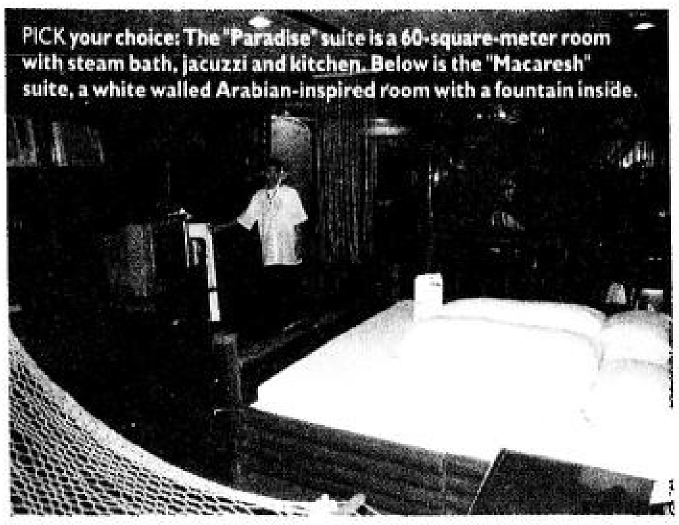
Nera says many of their clients are legitimate couples who want to spend a private time together away from the children. He laments that the negative image associated with motel is still hard to extinguish.

"When you go abroad, motels aren't known as bad destinations. Holiday Inn started as a motel. But I have to admit motels before were really seedy places where illicit affairs, drugs and good time happened. Women with a pimp used to line up outside motels

MOTELS/G3

PHOTOS BY JIM PUNZALAN





PICK your choice: The "Paradise" suite is a 60-square-meter room with steam bath, jacuzzi and kitchen. Below is the "Macaresh" suite, a white walled Arabian-inspired room with a fountain inside.

Double points with Equitable Card as the season of love gallops in

EQUITABLE Card, the leading card network in the country, has cooked up a double treat for its cardholders for the Chinese New Year and Valentine's Day as it launches its Equitable Advantage Plus Rewards Program, which runs from Feb. 12 to Aug. 31, 2003.

"As an opening salvo, Equitable cardholders will earn double E-points for purchases or transactions made from Feb. 12 to 17. In other words, during this limited period, cardholders will earn not one but two E-points for every P50 purchase," announces Equitable Card first vice president for card sales and marketing Teresita Tanbonliong.

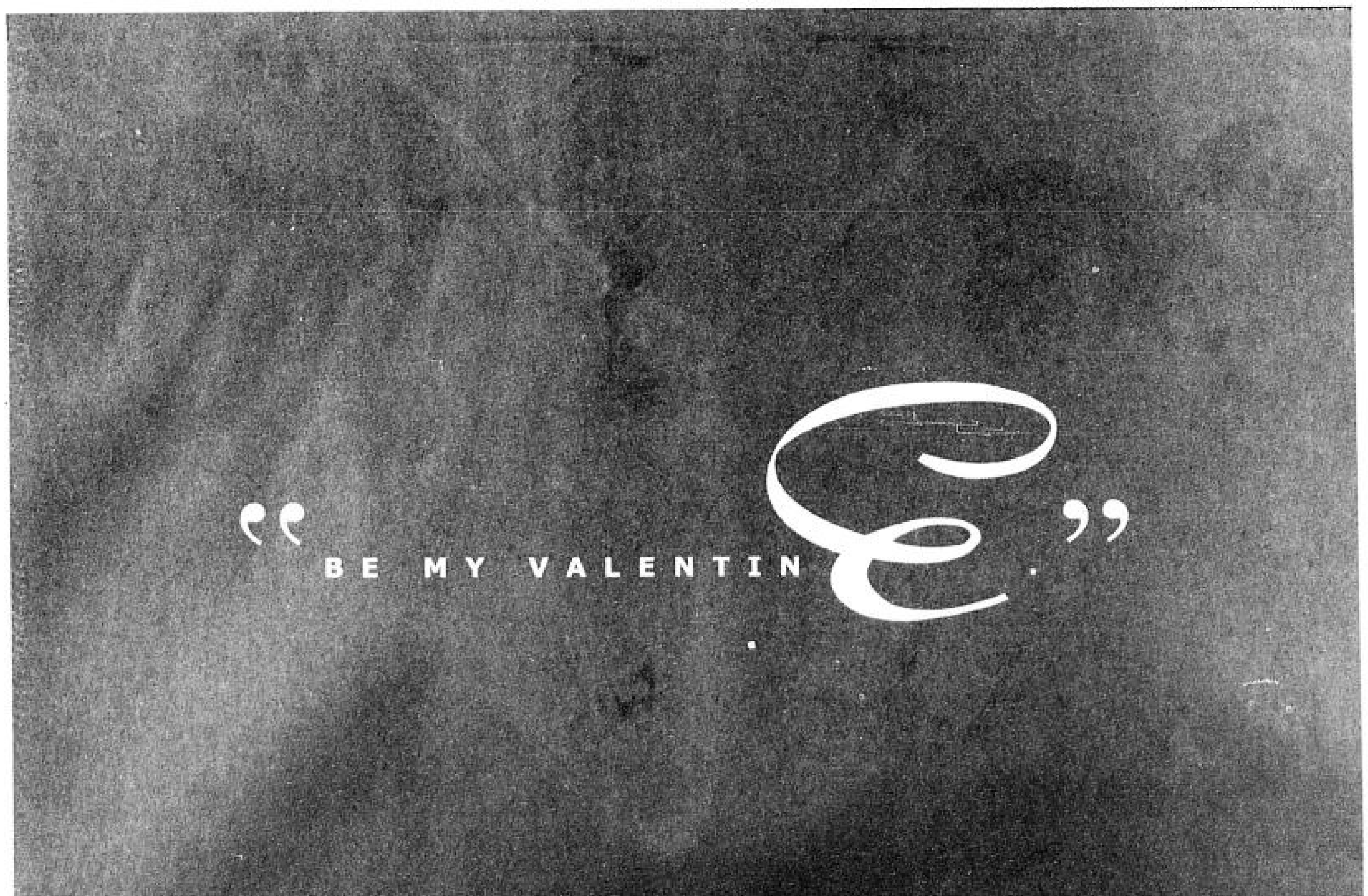
"We feel that this double E-points offer is very timely. We know that people tend to spend more on special occasions like these. If they use their Equitable Card, then they can just accumulate more points."

The Equitable Advantage Plus Rewards Program includes the gold, classic, local, international, corporate and selected co-branded cards available through Equitable Card—the Equitable Visa, Equitable MasterCard, Equitable JCB, and Equitable American Express. Even purchases through the Deferred Payment Plan and valid dollar transactions can earn E-points. Cardholders who subscribe to multiple Equitable cards may consolidate their E-points to aim for bigger rewards.

Aside from being able to redeem premium items, using Equitable Card takes away the hassles of going to the bank to grab much-needed cash for a special Valentine's gift, night time gimmick, or family dinner. These Equitable cards work perfectly well for any occasion whether it is a Valentine's date for two or a Chinese New Year lauriat for 20.

Equitable cards are also valuable companions whether you're shopping for jewelry for that special someone or buying horse carvings to welcome the year of the horse, or other lucky trinkets for loved ones.

Equitable Card enjoys the widest acceptance in the Philippines and is being honored in more than 14 million establishments in over 220 countries. It also has the broadest network of payment centers nationwide to facilitate the transactions of cardholders. In case of emergencies, Equitable cardholders can also secure cash advances through more than 4,000 ATMs nationwide and over 500,000 ATMs worldwide.



"BE MY VALENTINE."

Make Valentine's Day more special!
Use your Equitable Card at these selected establishments and enjoy discounts and freebies until March 31, 2002.

Don Henrico's
Crossings
LANCEL
GNC Live Well
ABENSON INC
Dino Velasco, Inc.
HEALTH SPA
SUPER
Pho Hóa
CHATEAU
MAGNO OPTICAL
Free eye examination
Alegre
Boracay
Marriott
THE PENINSULA MANILA
La Primavera
VUDU
Macau

Nothing says it better than an Equitable Card.
Use your Equitable Card from February 12-17
and earn DOUBLE E-POINTS in the
Equitable Advantage Plus Rewards Program.
This Valentine's, everyone should have 1.

VISA
VISA Electron
MasterCard
JCB
AMERICAN EXPRESS

Equitable CARD
Everyone should have 1.

Equitable Hello Service
867-7977
Equitable Card Center: 251 Salcedo St., Legaspi Village, Makati City 1229, Philippines (632) 867-7977 (Metro Manila)
1-800-1-888-3264 (Domestic Toll Free). View your billing statements online at www.equitablecard.com

The Podium—the new place for Valentine

SPEND Valentine's Day with that special someone with a romantic dinner at the Podium, the new mall at ADB Avenue at the Ortigas Center.

The place itself is primed for romance with its high ceilings, lighting, play of glass and steel, and marble floorings.

Begin the day by buying that token of love from any of the luxe stores—Swiss watches from Montre and G Factory, a thousand-piece jigsaw puzzle from the Jigsaw Shop, leather goods from Braun Buffel, and toiletries from the Body Shop.

If your loved one is into sports—there are a lot of shops to choose from—Nike Park, Speedo, Arena, Fubu, and And 1.

Check out the other high-end stores—Lacoste Footwear, Nunn Bush, CMG, and Rockport for footwear, Girbaud and Arrow for clothes; Les Lunettes de Paris and Optical Works for eyewear; and Shell Canvas for homeworks.

Enjoy a romantic dinner in any of the mall's specialty restaurants—Café Breton with its crepes and French cuisine, Casa Armas with its tapas and Spanish specialties, Café Mediterranean with its regional cuisine, and Pagliacci with its Italian offerings. If you prefer Asian cuisine, there is Yaku and Mini Shabu Shabu.

Cap the evening with a cup of coffee at any of our coffee houses—Starbucks, UCC Vienna Café, Cinnabon, and Cheesecake.

The Podium is located at 18 ADB Avenue at Ortigas Center.

SPEND a romantic evening with good food and a serenade at Casa Armas.

Intelligent, fearless 'fun' with Frenzy

FRENZY, the newest line of condoms from Trust, is out to revolutionize intelligent sex. Available in mint green, banana yellow and orange, its vivid colors and luscious scents render the conventional lubricated rubber with a young, energetic, hip, fun and smart personality. It provides the same maximum protection with an attitude.

Frenzy caters to a growing culture of adventurous young adults who want to take control of their lives. Its bright colors, creative packaging and sensuous scents suit their character.

One user comments that "the colors look really cool and the fruity scents smell pleasant, not artificial and rubbery." Another user notes that "they aren't intimidating and embarrassing to purchase because they look trendier than their sober counterparts." Some even find it aesthetically pleasing as another person comments, "My girlfriend thinks it's cute."

Frenzy endorses safe and intelligent sex for young adults by acknowledging some of today's pressing issues. It hopes that through increased awareness, the frequency of sexually transmitted diseases, teen pregnancy and abortion will be minimized. It provides them an option without compromising their health, or their future.

There is more to sexuality than the pursuit of pleasure. Why not do it intelligently? Be bold, have fun, live full. Frenzy—get into it.

Motels . . .

From page G2

and customers picked up their date. Rooms had lewd pictures and love seats, and mirrors flooded the walls. But we started changing that."

The company has embarked on "good image" building, to somehow create an erstwhile acceptable "wholesomeness" in the motel industry in the country.

In 1986, Don Angelo King, who owns the Anito chain of motels, reestablished some of the motels and renamed them Victoria Court, a name taken from the property the businessman bought in Pasig.

"Mr. King used this name because the former name was associated with the traditional 'motel' concept," says Nera.

King established many changes in Victoria Court. The rooms and amenities were made at par with the rooms and services of a first-class hotel. Big suites were introduced, where families could stay and celebrate occasions.

The motel also now engages in other activities such as tree planting, blood donation, street party sponsorships, and donations to orphanages.

Despite the unfavorable image, motels are still the favorite destination of Pinoy lovers

Victoria Court offers 102 rooms, 40 of them suites, 42 standard rooms, 24 deluxe rooms. The suites offer more fantasy themes for couples.

The "Paradise" suite is a 60-sqm room with a queen size bed, steam bath and jacuzzi, a dining and living room area. With bamboo posts, narra panels and a hammock, the room design is straight out of Tarzan's abode. (Think of Adam and Eve's pleasurable moment together.)

The "Macaresh" suite is an Arabian inspired room with white walls, a fountain and a bed with posts. The "bar" suite is walled with soft green color and boasts of a glass-topped bar and a ceiling painted like a night sky.

As to the "short time" or short period of stay introduced by motels, Nera says that it's still a marketing tool that attracts Filipinos.

"It's really part of the Filipino concept of a motel, he says. An ordinary customer won't pay P1,000 plus for a 24-hour stay. It's too high for him if he checks in to share a private moment with a partner"

And as in any other lodging business, secrecy and privacy of a client is assured in most motels and that includes Victoria Court, says Nera. The company's conspicuous logo of the woman who makes the hush sign says it all.

This Valentine's.
We're Painting The Mall Red
Eat Together
Play Together
Shop Together
SM SUPERMALLS
CITY NORTH EDSA · CENTERPOINT · MEGAMALL · SUPERCENTER SUCAT · SOUTHMALL · CITY FAIRVIEW
CITY BACOOR · CITY DAVAO · CITY CEBU · CITY ILOILO · CITY MANILA · CITY PAMPANGA

Sweet, nutty love at Delifrance

THERE COULD be no better place to celebrate the month of love than at Delifrance.

As hearts and treats make one sweet mix when the café's two newest goodies—Dates and Walnuts and Rich Chocolate Cakes top with an exciting promo, would surely turn one's Valentine into a delightfully special moment.

This February, experience an indulgence of mouth-watering heart-shaped cakes specially made from the finest ingredients as blended in the Rich Chocolate variant that is baked with distinct dairy products and topped with a sugar-coated flower. The prunes, cashew nuts and dried mangoes stuffed in Dates & Walnuts Cake, sprinkled with pecan and brushed with apricot gel, are two more reasons why this month is so great. Both items are packed in a clear Valentines Delifrance box.

Both purchases of Rich Chocolate and Dates & Walnuts entitles the customer to a French Kiss Wazzup Card, which opens treats as supported by Cadbury Philippines. Minor sponsors are A&G Nuthouse, RFM Corp., Fortant de France and Scanasia Inc.

With the French Kiss Wazzup Card, lovers could peek at their future with the Love Oracle, which will last until today, Feb. 14. The Philippine Astrologer Organization, of which Edel Santiago is a member, and freelance writer and producer Karen Kunawicz, will conduct special sessions at the Rockwell Power Plant Mall (10 a.m. to 2 p.m.) and at Greenhills Roosevelt (4 p.m. to 9 p.m.).

Every purchase of either cake will entitle the Wazzup cardholder to "Three Pieces of Love" gift courtesy of Delifrance and Cadbury.

ROMANTIC PACKAGE FROM NETWORLD HOTEL

The Networld Hotel Manila offers its Valentine Package from Feb. 8 to 17. For P2,600 net, avail yourselves of an overnight stay in a De Luxe Room with a set breakfast, set dinner and sauna for two, plus a bottle of wine. Reservations are required. Networld Hotel is a six-month-old 'boutique hotel' conveniently located along Roxas Boulevard, corner Senator Gil Puyat Avenue, Pasay City. For reservations, call 536-5828 or 536-7777 loc. 102, or fax 536-5835. Its e-mail address is info@networldhotel.com.ph.

A great story from Grampa. Listen! Listen!

A LONG TIME ago, on May 8, 1959, in Garden City, Michigan, Little Caesar was born. That's right, your favorite Pizza!Pizza! The proud parents were Marian and Michael Ilitch who really, I mean, really really looooved pizza!

"Were they Italians, Grampa?"

I'm not really sure. But I'm sure is this was the first pizza chain that offered real exceptional value because they gave out two great pizzas for only one low price. Always! Always!

It started the great "peace era" because kids (and sometimes mommies and daddies, too) didn't have to fight over who got the last slice since there were more than enough for all (unless your Dad was a hippo and your Mom was an elephant).

I wouldn't be surprised if they told you the war stopped because all the American Gis raced back home for pizza dinner. And the rest of the soldiers begged to come along.

"Kewl! Like, were you a GI too, Grampa?"

Well, yes Gelo, I am a genuine Ilocano. Anyway, kids, as far as I remember, Little Caesars is made up of company and franchise restaurants, and has grown to be one of the top three pizza chains in the world!

"Wow, Lolo! I sure would love to be chained with pizza too! Would you buy me one? Please? Please? I promise to be good. Always! Always!"

Err, well..Anyway, it was a bright and shiny day, that September 1997. People lined up to the counter of Little Caesar East Avenue, demanding that I leave some for them. Heh, I remember falling asleep rubbing my pizza-stuffed tummy. Do you know that Little Caesar has 36 stores now in Metro Manila and nearby provinces in the north and south? Not bad for just four years, huh?

Now according to Tito Arnel (he works for Little Caesar doing all sorts of art and stuff) they first launched their One Number System for delivery last Sept. 19, 1999.

During those starting years when the delivery motorcycles gave me memories of the Star Rangers (the Power Rangers of yesteryears) the top of the line was the "Supreme! Supreme!" pan pizza. I, of course, personally preferred the "Meatsa!Meatsa!" while your Lola loved the "Veggie!Veggie!" which she made you eat by saying you'd become as strong as that Vegetta dude on Dragon Ball Z.

Now your Dad liked the "Hawaiian!Hawaiian! and always asked your Mom to do the hula-hula as he munched away. I think, maybe, that's how your kid brother was made. Your Mom craved the "Pepperoni!Pepperoni!" when you were in her tummy, and your Dad got concerned that you might turn out to look like one when you came out. You came out just fine, so fine he treated all the doctors to "Cheeser!Cheeser!" pan pizza and the Caesar Grand Supreme which they shared with the nurses.

Now, I don't know if that's how the personal Pizza "Baby Pan!Pan!" came about, but the Crazy Bread 16s were excellent sides. More? There's Sunroast Chicken (roasted chicken), Pita Bread (Chicken Salad and Italian flavors), Stuffed Crazy Bread (Pepperoni and Cheese and Plain Cheese Flavors), Fudgy! Fudgy!, Chicken Macaroni Salad.

What's that, son? Where am I taking you on Feb. 14? Why of course, of course! We're going out for the Romantic Roman-Treat! The one that gives us, for only P214, six pieces of Milky Way chocolate bars, 1 Coke Litro, four pieces of Crazy Bread, two spaghetti and one Family Thin Crust Supreme Pizza!

"Yeeeeyyyyy!"

That's right boys and girls, it's a Valentine delight that lasts all month looong! Yep-yep-yep! They've got thin crust now (just launched last Feb.1) so we could sample each one of 'em whenever we want to. There's the thin crust Supreme!Supreme!, the Meatsa!Meatsa!, the Veggie!Veggie!, your fave Pepperoni!Pepperoni!, the Hawaiian!Hawaiian! and the Cheeser!Cheeser! Yahoooooo! Now that ain't a small treat from the Little C, huh? It's one biiiig, Roman treat!

Now, kids, why don't you go ask Mom & Dad to take you all out for pizza now. Me and Gramma will be busy quite a bit. Teehee! Now where's that teeth of mine?

AND THEY CALL IT HONEY LOVE.
SueBee
Clover Honey
NET WT 40 OZ (2 LB 8 OZ)

Sweet love is what they often say.
What better way to show it than with a recipe for/with honey.
When it's honey you're talking about, say it with Sue Bee, the purest way to say honey. Sue Bee. Everybody knows it's the way you love honey, the way you should honey-love.

SueBee Honey

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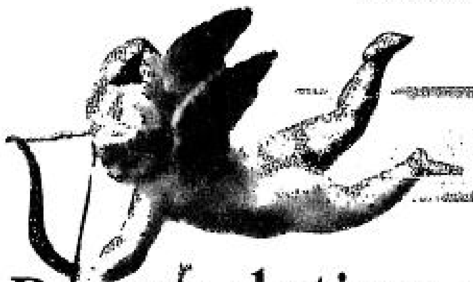
Intramuros Evenings presents 'Romeo and Juliet'

WILLIAM Shakespeare's immortal love story "Romeo and Juliet" is featured next on the Intramuros Evenings Performing Arts Series 7th Season on Friday, Feb. 15, 6:30 p.m. at the Puerta Real Gardens. The Gantimpala Theater Foundation production directed by Jun Flavier Pablo stars Lance Raymundo as Romeo, Adriana Agcaoili as Juliet, and TV and movie idol Wowie de Guzman as Paris.

In Shakespeare's original English lines, the classic tale of romance and tragedy promises to give the audience an unforgettable visual and musical experience, with costumes of the Italian Renaissance period and original songs by Lance and Rannie Raymundo.

Intramuros Evenings is a project of the Department of Tourism headed by Secretary Richard J. Gordon and the Intramuros administration under Dominador Ferrer Jr. Admission is free. For inquiries, call 527-3138 or 527-2961.



Power-dating all day, all night at Rockwell

The Power Plant Mall spices up its Valentine's Day celebration with offers to suit the taste of the most discriminating.

With more than 50 restaurants and bars to choose from, one can be assured there is someplace with just the perfect food, music, ambience, and price tag.

Valentine's kicks off at the Concourse Level at 7:30 p.m. with "The Nostalgia" to serenade the diners with contemporary love songs accompanied by a five-piece chamber orchestra.

At 9 p.m., the heat is up at the Power Plant Plaza with Aquarela playing Samba and Latin music. The newly opened Plaza features dining outlets such as Country Waffles, Zaap and Starbucks.

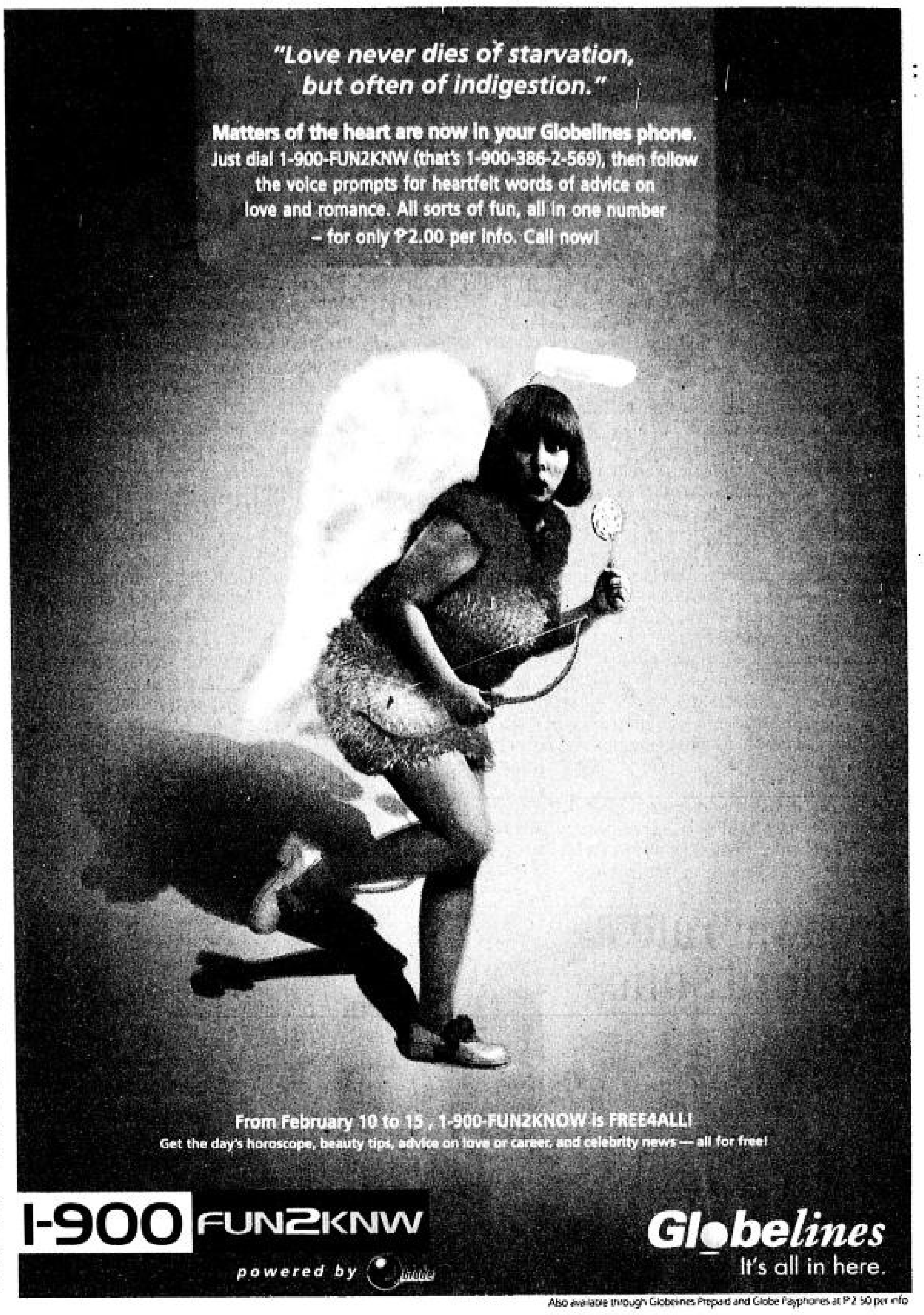
Lopez Drive sizzles with smooth R&B by Brand New Funk at 10 p.m., bringing diners from Che Cigar Bar, Cork Wine Cellar, Maiorga Tapas Bar y Restaurante, Oyster Bar, Café Via Mare, Seattle's Best Coffee and Mati on their feet.

Shopping for a Valentine's gift for a loved one is also recommended, with the opening of the Power Plant's newest feature, the Lifestyles Wing. Lifestyles features over 40 home furniture and accessory shops at the second level, plus more fashion shops and restaurants at the ground level. Flowers abloom at the Flower Market at the second level with Holland Tulips, Garden Blooms, Rustan's Flower Shop and Jaime Santiago offering thousands of fresh flowers at different attractive prices.

Chocolates, candies, pastries and other gift items attractively packed and ready to go will also be available at the North Court.

Power Plant Mall is open from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m., but the street parties at Lopez Drive and the Plaza continue way beyond midnight.

More dining outlets are located at the Rockwell Information Center, where one can enjoy Valentine treats from Grassi's, Santi's Delicatessen, Holland Sausage, and Starbucks while being serenaded by the ambient sound of a string duo.



"Love never dies of starvation, but often of indigestion."

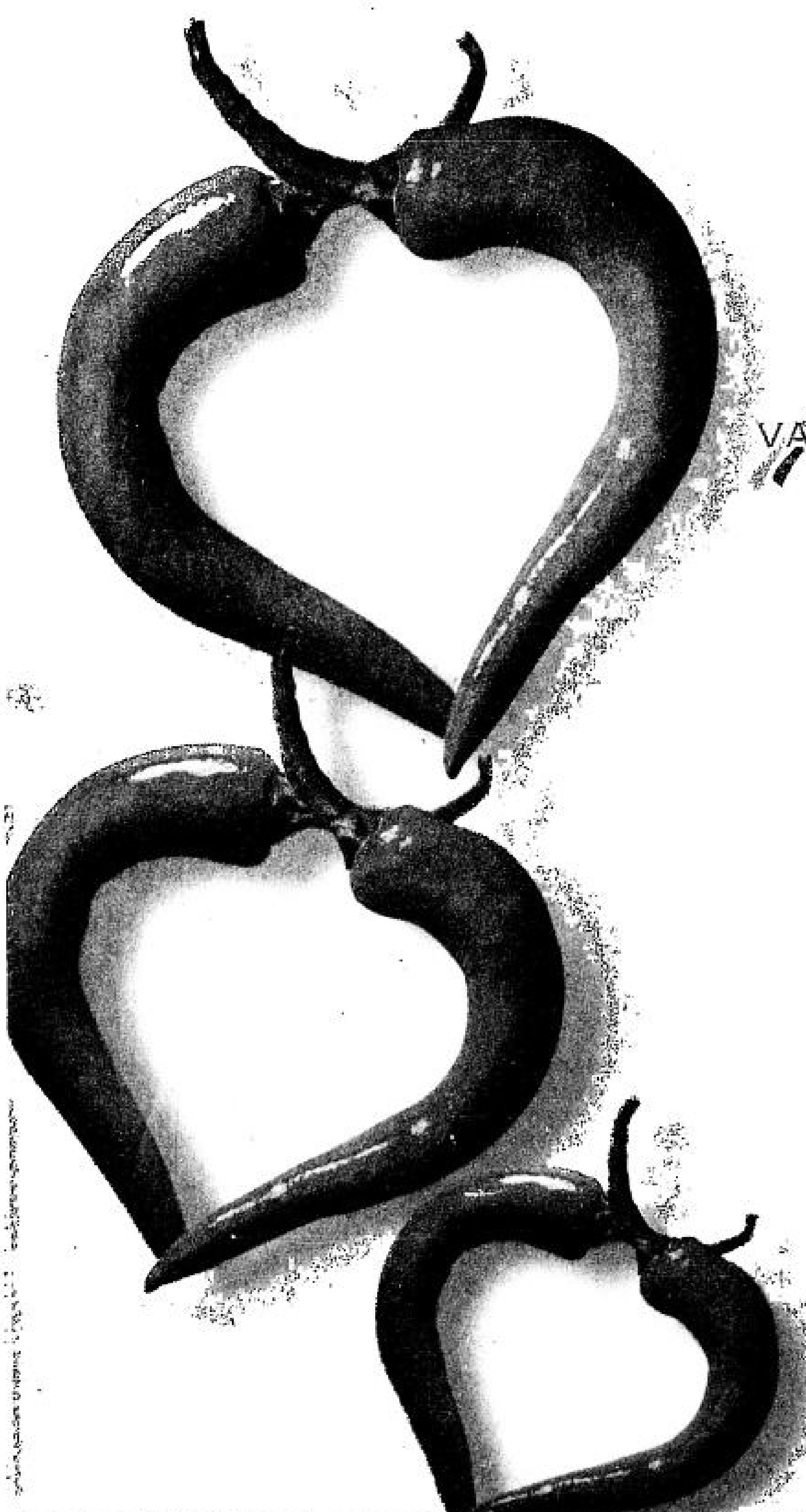
Matters of the heart are now in your Globelines phone. Just dial 1-900-FUN2KNW (that's 1-900-386-2-569), then follow the voice prompts for heartfelt words of advice on love and romance. All sorts of fun, all in one number – for only ₱2.00 per info. Call now!

From February 10 to 15 , 1-900-FUN2KNOW is FREE4ALL!
Get the day's horoscope, beauty tips, advice on love or career, and celebrity news — all for free!

1-900 FUN2KNW
powered by

Globelines
It's all in here.

Also available through Globelines Prepaid and Globe Payphones at P2.50 per info



Spice Up
VALENTINE'S DAY AT THE POWER PLANT MALL

Hot Desserts
Chocolates, candies and other confectionery delights sweeten things up as the mall is dotted with dessert delectables at the North Court from Feb.12-17.

Sizzling Recipes
That special day gets even hotter with over 50 fine restaurants perfect for wining and dining.

Red Hot Roses
Come to the 2nd Level of the Lifestyles wing and choose from the widest array of reasonably-priced fresh flowers at the Flower Market from Feb.12-15.

Hot Rhythms
Warm her heart and stir your soul with music that will surely set you in the mood on February 14:
THE NOSTALGIA at the Concourse Level,
7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m., Contemporary jazz and love songs

AQUARELA at the Power Plant Plaza,
9:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m., Brazilian and Latin Music

THE BRAND NEW FUNK at Lopez Drive,
10:00 p.m. to 12:00 m.n., Smooth Rhythm and Blues

Enjoy all these within a comfortable, worry-free environment.
So celebrate Valentine's at Power Plant and
make this day of hearts the hottest ever.

POWER PLANT MALL
AT ROCKWELL

Love in the Internet . . .

From page G1

after their initial meeting.

A random survey of people who had registered themselves in some Internet matchmaking sites and had been chatting online, exchanged e-mails or phone calls, or had seen their "Internet friends" personally, claim it was not really their intention to meet romance through the Internet.

"I just wanted to meet new friends," relates Annalyn Pineda, an AB Mass Communication graduate who now works as a sales assistant.

She says that the Internet merely provides a new venue to get to know new friends. She considers it luck if one finds his or her future lifelong mate with the help of the Internet.

Rowena Diaz, who lives in Galas, Quezon City, was not that fascinated by the Internet. In fact, she met her fiancé through her friend Carol who was the one burning hours in front of her computer searching for her own future romance.

Rowena thus came to know Christian Torlee, a German national, when she joined Carol meeting her Internet friend, a German named Thomas. Soon, Rowena and Christian were sending e-mails to one another. The relationship eventually turned serious.

"Actually, that was the only time I began writing e-mails to anybody," Weng says.

Weng and Christian are scheduled to wed in a civil ceremony in Germany sometime in July this year, where they will be joined by the groom's family. By November, they will have their church wedding here, this time, of course, with Weng's family.

For Carol, she finds it fun knowing new people through the Net. She came close to having a German fiance when Thomas visited her in the Philippines.

"We just realized that Thomas and I were not the right match. But I'm still happy because at least I became the instrument of another's successful romance," says Carol, referring to her friend Rowena.

Chona Agustin of Sta. Cruz, Manila, sees nothing wrong with visiting Internet matchmaking sites. She says that she's just curious. She is fond of meeting new friends, especially foreigners.

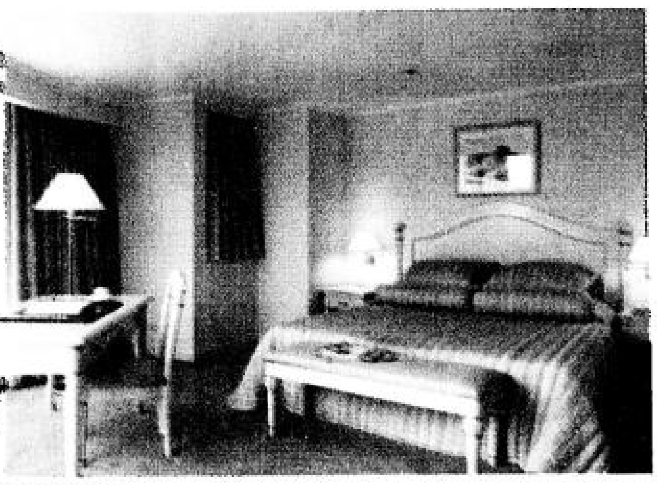
"I really don't have that intention of finding my future romance through the Internet, I just envied friends who started to get to know a lot of boys, so I joined them," Chona relates.

Although she hasn't really gotten to the point of getting close to somebody through the Net, Chona says she's not closing her doors.

"We can't say, I have heard a lot romance stories that started in the Internet. If I find one who's right for me, why not," she says.

We may have heard of other stories just like theirs. Some stories, though untold, may even be more classical and inspiring. But one's thing's sure, love and the Internet is not bound by time and place. Just like the lyrics of a popular love song, which goes, "Love always finds a way...," love will always find a way, even through cyberspace. Besides, the World Wide Web has enough room to accommodate more lonely souls searching for love and companionship.

Giveaway rates at Oxford Suites



A DE LUXE Executive room

YOUR LOVED one deserves first-class accommodations this Valentine's Day—an extra huge room to romp in fitted with luxurious amenities and comfort—at any of the 223 fully furnished rooms of the 27-story Oxford Suites. The newest condotel conveniently located at the corner of P. Burgos and Durban Streets in Makati City is a mere three minutes away from Rockwell Center.

Book a room this month for only P1,750++ per night (twin sharing) Sundays through Thursdays.

For its Valentine Week treat until Feb. 17, the Oxford Suites is offering a package of a steak dinner for two at its Stars of Giorgio Restaurant included in its special Valentine room rates of P2,300++ for a Superior Room; P2,900++ for an Executive Room, and P3,500++ for a De Luxe Room.

Call and reserve now at 899-7888 or fax 899-6891. For more details log on to www.oxfordsuitesmakati.com.

Avid Club rewards members with hotel stay

AVID Club members can get the chance to win an overnight stay for two at the Mandarin Oriental Hotel with Avid Club's Valentine Promo. Avid Club is the rewards program for customers of Avid Sales Corp., a chain of retail concept stores in Metro Manila and Cebu.

Open to all Avid Club members and even applicants until Feb. 28, the promo requires a minimum purchase of P50,000 worth of Sony, Klipsch and Definitive Technology or a combination of these products. Members can then redeem their overnight stay gift certificates from Avid Sony Corp and AVSurfer Rockwell. The promo is valid at all Avid Sales Corp. outlets.

For more information, call Jenny Betito at 525-3644.

Joyeli offers ideal Valentine gifts

IDEAL Valentine gifts are perfumes from France and fashion jewelry. These gifts are not available in shopping malls, but through Joyeli, a division of Gioielli International Inc., a top direct seller company with branches in strategic places in the country.

Thelma Valle, sales and marketing manager, says many people, even prominent socialites, showbiz personalities and professionals, prefer fashion jewelry because they are cheaper and look real. Fashion jewelry users prefer these items because they can wear them anywhere unmindful of the snatchers and robbers.

Gioielli products are available only at their branches nationwide or through members of Gioielli direct selling network.

Valle says many of their sales people are earning good income. Housewives, students, out-of-school youth sell Gioielli products during their free time or after the employees office hours.

She says they enjoy selling 24 klad jewelry, perfumes from Paris and imported watches. Some even receive awards from Gioielli for their success and achievements, Valle adds.

Those interested can visit the Gioielli office at 1264 Batangas Street, Makati City, or call 889-4725/810-3502 or any of its branches strategically located in different parts of the country such as Bacolod, Cagayan de Oro, Cebu, Cotabato, Dagupan, Dipolog, Iligan, Iloilo, Marbel, Mindoro, Naga, Anonas, Zamboanga, Pagadian, Batangas, Cabanatuan, Cavite, Daet, Dau, Davao, Kabankalan, Kalibo, Legazpi, Lucena, Olongapo, Ozamis, Roxas, San Pablo, Sorsogon, Tacloban, Tagaytay and Tagbilaran.

Pioneer releases world's first DVD recorder

FOR YEARS, Pioneer has been at the technological forefront of optics for home entertainment. As a matter of fact, its history of innovation in optical disc technology goes all the way back to 1980 when it introduced the first laser disc player—a full two years before the audio CD became popular. In 1986, it outdid the competition by offering the first DVD player. Now, Pioneer once again is changing the scope and definition of home entertainment with the world's first home DVD recorder, the DVR-7000.

Until now, DVD has been viewed as a medium that could only be used to play back videos, but with the arrival of Pioneer DVR-7000, DVD has stepped up on to a new stage, that of video recording.

With the many and varied advantages offered by optical discs—their compactness and thinness, the convenience they offer in recording and playback, and their ease of storage to name but a few. Pioneer DVR-7000 is the answer to the prayers of users who want to extend these benefits to the recording of visual images in the home.

With Pioneer DVR-7000, you can enjoy high video and audio quality without the trouble of fast forwarding or rewinding. You can access any part of the recording instantly and directly. Discs are compact and durable, therefore DVD is ideal for storing video recordings over long periods of time.

From video recording to playback and editing—a new style of entertainment is born.

Hear of the latest promo from Pioneer. Get a Pioneer VS800DVD, VS600DVD, VS400, IS22VCD and VS70LV Mini System, and treat yourself to 10 VCD Karaoke free. For inquiries about Pioneer products, call 832-0033.

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Love in the air at Aromatherapy Center

METRO MANILANS can now treat their hearts to total well-being with free oxygen therapy at the Aromatherapy Center for the whole month of February. Regularly priced at P500 per treatment, the newest trend in health and beauty can now be sampled for free.

A brainchild of Richarest G. Velasco, daughter of Filipino aromatherapist pioneer Madeleine G. Velasco, the oxygen bar, like its counterparts in Europe and America, is designed to give clients a quick supply of 99-percent pure oxygen to make up for the depletion of oxygen in the atmosphere caused by pollution.

"According to a recent study commissioned by the Asian Development Bank, next to Mexico City, Metro Manila is the worst polluted city in the world and at such level of environmental degradation, it is difficult to find a source of clean and pure oxygen," said Velasco.

Velasco asserted that a 20-minute treatment at the oxygen bar would do many wonders to the body, mind and soul, especially when complemented with the Aromatherapy Center's famous aromatic blends.

The advent of oxygen therapy stems from the findings of Dr. Otto Warburg, twice a Nobel Prize Laureate, who proved that cancer cannot grow in a high-oxygen environment. His research revealed that when a cell is denied 60 percent of its normal requirement of oxygen, it becomes susceptible to cancer. Hence, the greater the oxygen levels in a human body, the more resistant it becomes to viruses and harmful bacteria.

And as oxygen is a vital essence in all of our bodily functions, a regular dose of oxygen therapy provides a wide range of benefits—from relieving stress and enhancing one's metabolism, to strengthening the immune system. It is also known to improve one's stamina and endurance, just what every lover needs this Valentine season.

"The oxygen bar is located right at the premises of the Aromatherapy Center at the 5th floor of Building B, SM Megamall, Mandaluyong City, or at the second floor of the Garden Square Building at Greenbelt Park, Ayala Center, Makati where the first Aromatherapy Oxygen Bar was recently inaugurated. Depending on their condition, clients can choose from a menu of aromatherapy blends to complement the therapeutic benefits of the pure oxygen. Furthermore, each oxygen session includes a wonderfully relaxing massage to ensure clients get total stress relief," added Velasco.

All clients are invited to avail themselves of any treatment at the Aromatherapy Center, as they will automatically get the chance to inhale pure oxygen for free. And in celebration of Valentine, the Aromatherapy Center is offering a whopping 50-percent discount for those who also bring their loved ones in for a treatment.

For an appointment, call the Aromatherapy Center at 637-5411 to 12 or 812-9002.

Scents that really make sense

WHAT a better way to start the day with the refreshing scents of Aficionado Perfume Germany. It is the local version of known imported brands of perfume, only much cheaper. Available in 90-ml bottles (P199), 30-ml bottles (P79.90) and 15 ml (P34.90), all of which go with a free pouch. Here's the catch. Avail of a new discounted price when you exchange any empty bottle of perfume. Yes, an entirely new bottle for you from the magnificent Aficionado Perfume Germany.

Now with a wide array of 56 scents to choose from, what are you waiting for? Get one now to feel the mood of the season. Better yet, why not give it as a gift?

You can find Aficionado Perfume Germany at all leading department stores nationwide.

A date with destiny at La Corona

BEST Western Hotel La Corona invites lovers this Valentine to a romantic dinner for two at Café Corona. Have a date and treat your loved one, your destiny. Experience a unique menu for this occasion especially made for those with discriminating tastes. Chateubriand is just one of the three specialty menus featured this Month of Love. For reservations, call 524-2631 to 38 local 610.

Hang Ten paints the colors of love

HANG TEN Philippines, a popular casual clothing brand for the youth market segment, offers a price-off madness that would surely paint the colors of love this February.

Until Feb. 28, you may wrap not just one but two unisex Hang Ten shirts as a surprise gift to your loved ones as Hang Ten offers to cut down their prices—when you buy two pieces of any color selection—to only P395. Buyers will get a savings of P90, since crewneck shirts are originally sold at P245 per piece.

Hang Ten also makes its ladies polo shirts more affordable by selling two items of any color selection for only P596 (with a total savings worth P195). The ladies polo shirts are originally sold at P395 per piece.

"One of the most touching gestures of love is when the other person wears your gift. By slashing down the prices of Hang Ten unisex shirts and ladies polo shirts, you can afford to give not just one but two new shirts to that person who makes your heart beat fast," Hang Ten management says.

"We would like to assure you that all the shirts on sale are of best quality and condition. Another reason, indeed, to celebrate the Season of Love."

Now on its fifth year in the Philippines, Hang Ten is a haven of trendy yet practical getups with fashionable designs. Hang Ten also offers accessories to complete a makeover—bags, shoes, caps and belts in creative designs and shades.

There are now 31 Hang Ten branches all over Metro Manila, Batangas, Cabanatuan, Cebu (Ayala Center), Iloilo, Davao, SM Pampanga, and Gaisano Davao, Hang Ten has recently opened branches in Robinsons Place Pasig and Iloilo City, and in SM Davao.

PT&T's project Pag-Ibig

PT&T recently launched its Project Pag-Ibig to keep the romance alive this Month of Love. Visit any of the PT&T branches and PT&T Click and Call Centers nationwide to order any of the following Valentine's Day gifts: 'Flowergram', a basket or bouquet of fresh flowers, the 'Winegram,' a bottle of red or white wine and the 'Lovegram', a love note or a letter that captures your feelings on paper; the 'Regalogram', where you can choose from a variety of adorable stuffed toys or a 'Kool Kard', a Valentine card and desk organizer all in one. Or sing your love out loud with the ever-popular 'Singinggram', a singing telegram with a choice of over 100 different songs. Send one or send them all. Interested parties can call 843-9911 to 25.

Romance unravels at the Sulo Hotel

THE FOOD was great, the wine seamless...Her eyes are all aglow as he looks at her. His lips break into a loving smile. A violinist plays a love song immortalized by this perfect moment. Words are not necessary as he holds her hand tenderly. The room lights up with love, and the romance unravels.

The Sulo Hotel, the Torch of Philippine Hospitality, has lined up a series of events and promotions for the romantics. Each of the hotel's food outlets have prepared set menus for this special day. A variety of Continental food will be available at the Café Paraiso, while sumptuous Japanese food will be served at the Teppanyaki and Sushi Bar. For those who will still be in the spirit of observing the Chinese New Year while celebrating Valentine's Day, the Guilin Chinese Restaurant will offer a wide array of gastronomic Chinese delights. The set menus will come with a complimentary box of chocolate treats.

Love is in the air as roving violinists and pianists will set the mood for love as they play famous love songs. Diners will be treated to this musical experience as they enjoy their meals. For those looking for a rare treat, the Guilin Chinese Restaurant will feature the Aquashow, the first and only underwater ballet show in Asia.

To cap off the evening, couples and groups alike can enjoy a drink or two as the Hotel's Diwata Bar and Cocktail Lounge will feature "Duets at Diwata". Romantic songs will be belted out by Bev Campos and Miguel, also known as Caramel Park. Scarlet's Potion, February's Drink of the Month, will be available along with a pair of sweet bear huggables. This passionate drink is a mixture of ¾ jigger rum, ¼ jigger amaretto, ¼ jigger crème de cacao, ½ jigger grenadine and ½ slice ripe mango.

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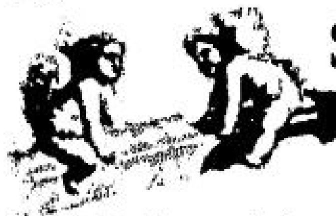
'Lovers Reverie' rooms at Hyatt

FOR VALENTINE, nothing compares to a romantic escape for two at Hyatt Regency Manila. The 'Lovers Reverie' rooms packages offers a choice of making her 'feel like a queen' in a Manila Bay Suite; or something 'simple but sweet' in a Deluxe Room with its r

The luxury of a Manila Bay Suite begins with a bouquet of roses and chocolates, with a butler-on-hand serving a candlelit four-course Italian dinner-for-two, including an excellent bottle of wine. A nightcap enhances the mood at Calesa Music Bar and Lounge, and for added value, a 10-percent discount on food and beverages is offered. Regency Club privileges complete the experience, including the express check-in, free local calls, and complimentary breakfast and cocktails. As a bonus, a compact disc of jazz hits from Citylite 88.3 is there to take home. All for P15,000 net per night. For other package options, call the customer service office of Hyatt Regency Manila at 833-1234 ext. 8595-97, or e-mail reservations@hyatt.com.ph for bookings. Bookings made at least 10 days in advance are entitled to a P500 discount.

Surviving romance in the urban jungle



THURSDAY. The sound of your phone's alarm wakes you from slumber. A quick glance at it says it's quarter past six in the morning. A warning, no doubt. So you will yourself to get up or you'll end up late for work. Again.

Mechanically, you do your morning rituals, except of course to read the papers. No time, you say. With a bundle of paperwork tucked under an arm and a Philips Xenium 9@9 at hand, you grab your keys and are gone in seconds.

Fast forward, Edsa. Like most days, a monstrous traffic jam awaits you. Isn't Edsa so great. Fighting the urge to mutter abracadabra and zap all that is in front of you to oblivion, you end up holding your Philips Xenium 9@9 and say the magical Wap word instead. Almost in an instant you find yourself browsing through the Internet, getting your dose of the day's news.

Movements ahead bring you back to the real world. 'Bout time, you voice out. Racing for space, slugging it out against two formidable foes (kings on the road on both your sides), your phone rings.

Activating your hands-free car kit, you answer. "Hi, honey," says the caller. It's Carla, your soon-to-be fiancee. "Oh, hi," you mumble, seemingly not in the mood for some nice chitchats and how-are-yous—at least not in the middle of Edsa. "What's for tonight?" she asks sweetly. "Why, what's so special about tonight?" you feign ignorance. "You mean you don't have a plan for tonight?" now she asks that "I-'m-about-to-explode-better-give-the-right-answer-or-else" flavor in it. Completely aware of what she was driving at, you say, "Well, yeah, I do have plans of dropping by the grocer to buy some chocolate bars for my late night TV viewing tonight."

"What?" she barks, you could almost see her breathing fire through her phone.

A grin slowly creeps its way to your lips. Sure you do have plans but vowed to keep it a secret, at least until tonight. You could hear Carla at the other end just blabbing about anything she could think of—about you being so insensitive, so uncaring, you don't even have a single romantic bone left in your 5-foot-9 frame. You just let her talk. She'll never outlast your phone's battery, anyway, what with a talk time of up to seven hours and a standby time of up to 600 hours. "I guess I won't be seeing you tonight, huh, Nick," she says finally, slamming the phone with a resounding wham. Ugh.

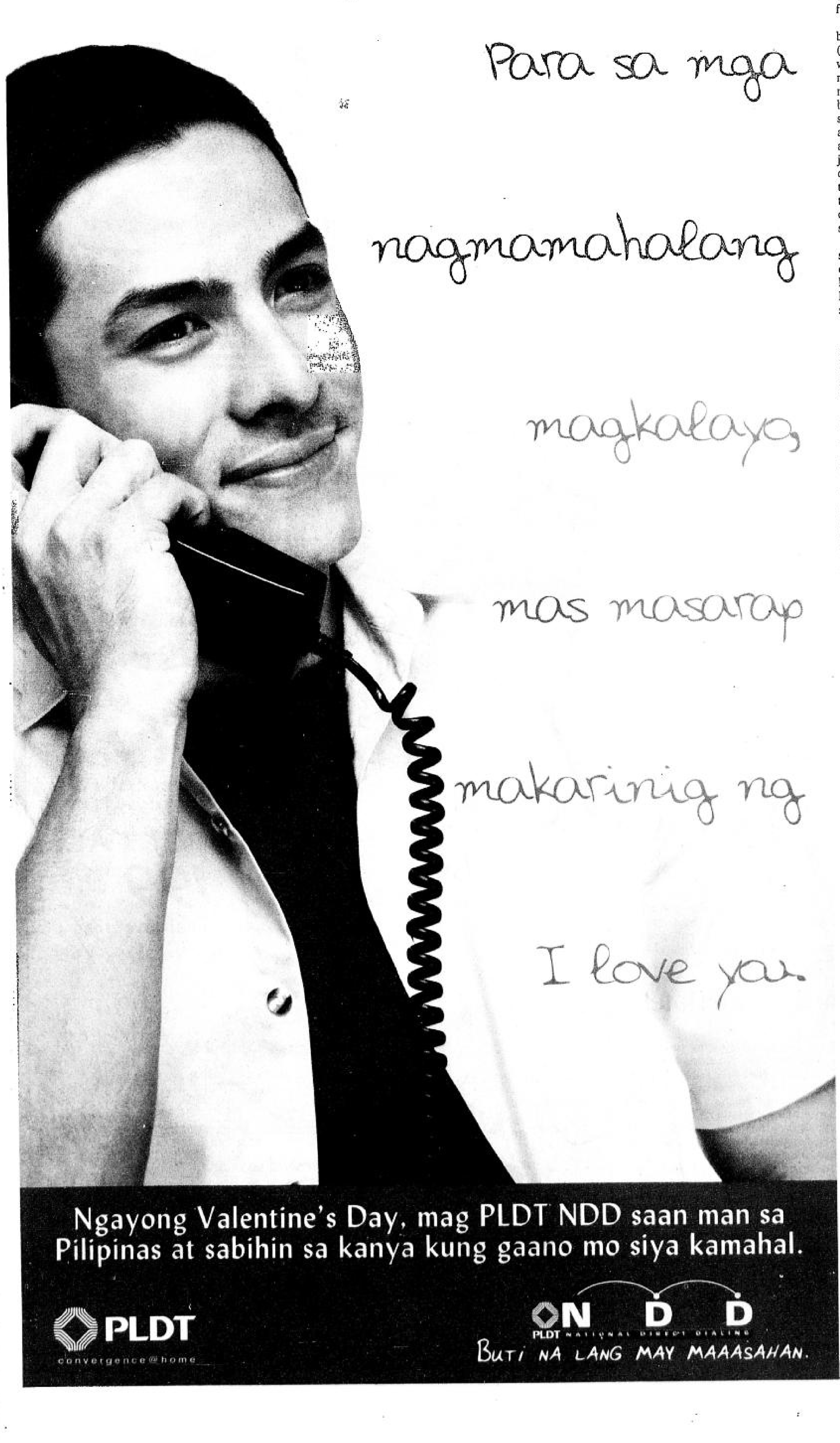
From your own little office nook, you weave your way through the day's tasks, like Tarzan swinging from vine to vine, never missing a single appointment nor a thing to do. With the help of your Xenium's personal organizer that chronologically stores up to 40 meetings and To Do items, intuitive features like Voice Navigation, T9 Text Input and its ever-reliable battery that gets you going without the usual fuss of recharging, it's no wonder you have no need for a secretary.

Breezed through a meeting at 9, remembering to voice memo "flowers for Carla" (tulips, of course). Had business lunch at 12 with prospective clients, while squeezing a minute or two to make reservations for tonight to that small, nice restaurant that's been a favorite of Carla's since you went steady for about three years now. Earned another deal from a big client presentation at three before making a quick stop at the jewelry store for that special ring you ordered for this particular occasion (which thankfully had also been reminded to you through your phone's Voice Memo). You cap the workday hurrying home for a quick shower before driving to Carla's place.

Then, finally, seated face to face, amidst sparkling wine, candlelight dinner, teary eyes and tulips, you propose. And as you hold her hand, slipping the single stone gold loop through her finger, you hear her say softly, "Yes, Nick, I want to be your wife."

Talk about pure magic.

So you see, romance in the urban jungle is not that bad at all. It's just a matter of knowing how to use the power that is technology and the right gadget that is Xenium 9@9 to cast your magic spells with.



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Dinner, concert and cocktails at PICC

THE RECENTLY concluded two-day performance of Lea Salonga entitled "Lea Salonga—The Broadway Concert" held at the PICC Plenary Hall last Jan. 31 and Feb. 1 was a total treat to all concert goers. This was the first concert of Lea for this year with brother Gerald Salonga's baton gracefully blending the music of the 60-piece San Miguel Foundation for the Performing Arts Orchestra. Lea's exceptional style in singing was ably supported by stage talents Michael de Mesa, Carlo Orosa, and Calvin Millado with their own renditions of Broadway hits.

What made the concert even more memorable was the pre-concert dinner and after-concert cocktails served by Kalakbay Hall of Famer Via Mare, the exclusive caterer to PICC events. The concert guests were treated to a unique dining experience at the PICC Lobby and Courtyard, which featured Italian cuisine and entrees like the mouth-watering Mushroom Stuffed Ravioli and the scrumptious Roast Sea Bass with Sund-Dried Tomato in Garlic Crust. The fruit crepes and the Apple Tart in Vanilla Sauce topped the cast of desserts for the dinner.

After the concert, the people went for a unique nightcap with Via Mare offering delectable appetizers that blended well with a glass of Cabernet Sauvignon, Sauvignon Blanc or an ice-cold beer. Not having enough of the night, some of the guests even had a second helping of their choice fruit crepes with Via Mare's classic brewed coffee.

A truly unique experience, concert-goers are poised to come back Feb. 14 and 15 to watch the Valentine concert of Michel Legrand, renowned French composer, pianist and singer at the Plenary Hall. Our very own Pop Diva Kuh Ledesma will have the rare privilege of interpreting Legrand's classic songs. For this concert, Via Mare will offer a special Valentine menu at the PICC Courtyard. One will certainly enjoy an intimate evening dining with their special someone as PICC and Via Mare set up a romantic mood that guarantees the most memorable prelude to the music of Legrand. After the concert, the PICC Lobby and Courtyard will still be open for guests to enjoy a romantic nightcap of Via Mare's signature pastries with a choice of wine, beer or coffee.

Nowadays, concert habitues look forward to watching concerts at the PICC Plenary Hall. Why not? It is the only concert venue in Manila where you can have an elegant dinner just before a show and a memorable nightcap right after.

Call PICC at 551-6902 for concert ticket inquiries and 834-0404 for dinner and cocktail reservations.